■ 2&U!
Showdown of the shopaholics: Which of 5 teams will represent RP in HK!

■ News/A2
Officials advise GMA to go ahead with US trip

■ Metro/A22
LTFRB OKs ₱1 fare hike for air-con buses

■ Business/B1
Equitable PCI Bank shareholders elect 2 boards of directors

■ Motoring
Father, son bonding on right track at Asian Formula 3

Gonzalez sitting on $2-M bribery complaint vs Perez

By Fe Zamora and Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez is not serving on a $2-million bribery complaint filed against former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez by Iscinar Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, a senior prosecutor in the Office of the Ombudsman said yesterday.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, July 20, 2005 ● 36 pages / vol. 20 / no. 234

website: www.inq7.net

Pagcor linked to drive to kill impeach complaint

By Michael Lim Ubac

IS MALACAÑANG out to kill the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo?

A ranking leader of the House of Representatives yesterday disclosed that the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

GMA to form truth body

Admits she can't ignore quit calls

By Christine O. Avendaño and Christian V. Esguerra

SAYING for the first time that she could not simply ignore calls for her to resign, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday bowed to demands for the creation of a truth commission that would probe into claims that she was involved in election fraud.

But Ms Arroyo also stood her ground, declaring in a bid to the country's Roman Catholic bishops that her decision to stay in office was the right one.

She did not say who would comprise the commission but Malacañang earlier said names of eminent persons would be known before the President's State of the Nation Address before Congress on July 25.

Ms Arroyo spelled out her position in a letter dated July 18 to Davao Archbishop Fernando V. Capalla, outgoing president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

A CBCP official initially welcomed Ms Arroyo's declaration but one bishop asked if the commission would have the power to question Ms Arroyo herself.

"What will be the scope of its authority? What will it be allowed to do?" Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar D. Cruz asked in a phone interview with the Inquirer. "Will it have the power to subpoena people, including the Presidency? Can it answer back down there?"

The CBCP last week suggested that the formation of a truth commission could be one way out of the political crisis harassing the country. It also asked Ms Arroyo not to "simply dismiss" calls for her resignation.

Similar proposals for the creation of a truth panel were aired earlier by the University of Santo Tomas and by the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference.

Ms Arroyo's decision to set up a commission that would investigate allegations that she cheated in the 2004 election.

"If there'd be any investigation since electoral fraud, the proper venue for that would still be the Presidential Electoral Tribunal and the impeachment court," Fr. Joaquin Bernas, one of the framers of the 1987 Constitution, told the Inquirer.

Any parallel investigation would be an attempt to subvert the Constitution."

Bernas, one of the legal experts whom the Board of Representatives consulted about the admissibility of the "Hello, Garci" tapes as evidence in its investigation of electoral fraud, added: "There is a Constitution and they are institutions [tasked] to undertake certain functions."

The Jesuit priest, who was a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, bagged off from further comment, saying he first wanted to see the President's executive order enacting such a commission before coming up with a detailed opinion.

"I don't know what truth is it about. [But should it be leading to] ... Garci? I don't know," he said.

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag, chair of a fact-finding commission which looked into alleged corruption in the Philippine Centennial preparations in 1998, also said that a truth commission designed to look into the conduct of elections would be a breach of the law.

"It's unconstitutional because [the] prerogative of election to rally] belongs to the President," Saguisag said. "[Beyond Tolentino]."

HER "PAET (REAL) SELF" A touch by President Arroyo, good advice from foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo during the Manila Overseas Press Club forum on Monday night. On Sunday, Romulo hosts Ms Arroyo at the 107th founding anniversary of the DFA.

8 out of 10 Filipinos want GMA out, says Pulse Asia poll

RESIGNATION by resignation or impeachment or by constitutional means, nearly 8 out of 10 Filipinos want President Macapagal-Arroyo banished from Malacañang even before she completes her six-year term.

This was the result of a nationwide survey conducted by Pulse Asia Inc. from June 20 to 23, disputing Malacañang's claim that the views of respondents in Metro Manila differ sharply from those of the rest of the country.

Some 1,200 respondents took part in the nationwide survey.

"The survey findings indicate that Metro Manilans generally reflect the sentiments of the rest of the country insofar as the sentiment of the Arroyo administration until 2010 is concerned, but not in the matter of the country's leaders," Pulse Asia executive director Ana Maria L. Tabunda said in a statement.

A survey conducted by Pulse Asia on July 2-3, 1,200 respondents found that 73 percent of residents in Metro Manila disapproved Ms Arroyo and that 58 percent wanted her to resign.

"Probe into Metro Manilans' views regarding the best and worst political executive for the country seemed very [little support] for the incumbent administration," Tabunda said.

The Pulse Asia Inc. survey conducted nationwide showed that Filipinos considered the President's stay in office (22 percent) the "worst short-term political scenario," similar to a coup d'etat (22 percent) in which a group of military and police officials choose the group that will govern.

Twenty percent considered a coup and a military junta a "destructive political scenario."

Only 17 percent said an impeachment of Ms Arroyo and her replacement by Noli de Castro was destructive.

Wonder kid a Grade 1 dropout

By Madonna T. Virola
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

VICTORIA, Oriental Mindoro—When he was a year old, he could sing the ABCs.

At 2, he could already read and name almost 60 countries. At 3, he started writing and reciting the capitals of nearly 200 countries.

Now 4, Adrian Marcella Jr. loves to spot books... even those without pictures.

He also admits to sit down with him for a conversation. His thoughts are focused (not even dangling a toy from Jollibee can distract him), probing and evasive.

He started speaking straight English at the age of 2. His godfather, Charlie Cardenas suggested to his parents that they talk to him in English. They used to converse in Tagalog.

His vocabulary is unusual; he refers to Bush (now) as an "opponent." He calls his parents mother, "parlevous."

"He's not like any four-year-old boys," said Marilyn Obinguar, his parents' godmother and city education officer who accompanied him to Inquirer to meet the boy wonder.

"When he was 3 months old, I said his name was Adrian. He said 'hali' so that's what

ADRIAN MARCELLA JR., 4, Asked to draw a flag, he drew a colored rectangle with buildings, trees, students in line, and of course, the flag.

Illegal, say legal eagles; diversionary, say critics

By Norman Bordadora and Philip C. Tubeo

AN ATTEMPT to alter the Constitution and a political ploy were how legal eagles and opposition lawmakers called President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to set up a commission that would investigate allegations that she cheated in the 2004 election.

Atienza and Binay: Best of pals, best of foes

By Tarra F. Quismundo and Tina G. Santos

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2015

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

Gonzalez stays after flap on Kris

EVEN if his boss had to go out of her way to apologize for his offensive remarks, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez is not about to lose his job.

"The President has not said anything about letting go of Secretary Gonzalez," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said in Filipino.

Gonzalez has been mum in defending the President against those calling for his resignation, to the extent of attacking former President Corazon Aquino and her family.

On Sunday night, the President called Aquino's daughter, actress and television anchor Kris, and apologized for Gonzalez' remarks that Aquino should attend to her daughter's affairs and leave the management of the affairs of the nation to the government.

Gonzalez has never apologized to Aquino and Kris for his statements.

And only the President has to personally apologize to Kris, Ermita said in Cebuano. "It is her decision if the people or the public let."

He said Kris was well respected and had been "very helpful" to the President.

The ultimatum campaigned for Mr. Arroyo in the 2004 presidential elections.

Ermita said he has repeatedly reminded members of the Cabinet not to be incompetent in their statements so as not to add to the political tension.

'Too harsh'

"Let's not be too harsh in our statements so we all want to have a stable political atmosphere," he said.

Meanwhile, two Cabinet members yesterday denied reports that they had broken away from the President.

Labor Secretary Arturo Tan Jr. Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila also said he would never desert Mr. Arroyo unless the President herself declares accept her express resignation.

"Why would we [be the President at this point when she is really needs the support of her Cabinet members?" Mr. Tan Jr. said.

But while his courtesy resignation "still hangs in balance," he said she has already started to pick up her things to ease Mr. Arroyo's decision to appoint a new Labor secretary.

Energy Secretary Rafael Lotilla also sought to dispel rumors that he had left the Cabinet, describing these as "highly exaggerated" and "hypothetical statements for which I see little justification."

Mr. Tan and Lotilla clarified that they had both submitted courtesy resignations early this month to comply with the President's directive and would continue to serve in their posts until Mr. Arroyo acts on their resignations.

"I serve at the pleasure of the President in Energy secretary. She enjoys my support as the duly constituted President of the Republic," Lotilla said in a statement.

Lotilla said in order for a replacement to be named, he had a transition plan mapped out that would ensure "security of energy installations and fuel supplies would not face disruptions in the delivery of services or to the public."

Ermita said he also understood Favila and that Lotilla's resignation was "irrevocable."

But the President has already decided to retain Lotilla as Energy secretary.

Mr. Tan is said that until she is replaced, she would continue to perform her duties as Labor secretary.

"I haven't allow politics to hinder us from delivering BOLE services to our people, especially our workers," she said.

Mr. Tan is disclosed that most of the Right 20, the group of Cabinet secretaries who demanded that the President step down, are planning to dissolve the group and to regain his old job but to personally reconsider with the President.

Mr. Tan is earlier admitted she was originally part of the Right 20. But she said she backed out because she did not believe that the intention the group was advocating would be achieved by dramatic moves.

She said she did not want to embarrass the President by publicly calling for her resignation. *Christine Avendaño, Jerome Aning and Abigail L. Ho*

Solons chide new 'defectors'

By Philip C. Tubeza and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

HOUSEmates yesterday chided resigned Palace advisers Ma. Victoria Sandoval and Cesario Gaddiet for allegedly resorting to "publicity stunts" to highlight their departure from the Cabinet.

The reasons for resigning given by Gaddiet and Gaddiet were "more hypocrisy disguised as concern for the country," said Majority Leader Rodolfo Biazon and Deputy Speaker Ed Maddiet (Iloilo) Edcastillo.

Biazon said the press reports about Gaddiet and Gaddiet were "not necessary" as President Macapagal-Arroyo had asked all Cabinet officials to resign two weeks ago on July 7 to make way for a new cabinet many more and asked to stay until such time as replacements are named.

Biazon and Gaddiet and Gaddiet were should have submitted letters, the Malacañang communications director, who chose to resign in a private and candid manner, "without spoon-feeding the Palace."

Why make public their resignation, to embarrass the President," he said.

Lior Mendoza, Gaddiet's press secretary, said he accepted the good government and poverty alleviation, and teachers, presidential consultant on sensitive solutions, made public their "interview-like" resignation from the government.

Gaddiet seems said she was bothered by the so-called Glutagate tapes while Gaddiet said she was concerned with the economy was not getting the full attention of the leadership because of the political crisis.

"If Gaddiet is really was worried about the economy, then join forces and public service director that she says and support her trust to help make the economy stable. On the part of Gaddiet-mina, if she is really bothered by the tapes, why resign only now?" Pelgado said.

Nobody wants Drilon's job — Joker

SENATE President Franklin Drilon could stay well where the top Senate post as nobody wants his job right now because of the persistent political situation, said maverick administration Sen. Jinggoy Estrada.

While it used to be a much coveted job, the Senate presidency does not hold much allure now because it doesn't command a solid following, the senator said.

"The Senate President authority rarely has become a bumpy in the 23-member Senate, the consequence of the current political crisis. Before, there were 14 majority senators and 9 minority senators and the latter were clearly drawn," Arroyo said in statements.

Administration senators had predicted that Drilon would lose the Senate presidency after he led the four-member Liberal Party contingent in the Senate in a break-away from the administration.

With the realignment of forces in the chamber, the administration lost its commanding majority of 14-against the opposition's nine.

The administration's numbers have been reduced to 10 senators, but so has the minority been reduced to seven, said Arroyo.

There are now four blocs in the chamber—10 majority senators, four Liberals (Drilon, Senate Minority Leader Francis Pangilinan and Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Manuel Roxas), seven opposition senators and independent opposition senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Alejandro Angara, according to Arroyo.

Villar, who has a term-sharing arrangement for the Senate presidency with Drilon, earth told reporters yesterday that the Senate presidency "still belongs to Frank."

Drilon said he would abide by the agreement and would support Villar's bid for Senate presidency in July 2016.

But Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday said that the Senate presidency was a valid idea of right and had agreed to vote as a bloc should there be a move to elect a new Senate President.

"We'll vote as a solid bloc whatever way we go," said Lacson, after the eight senators met to discuss it at the Hotel Intel.

Lacson said the opposition in the Senate no longer constituted bigger as it stands six members.

Earlier, other minority senators announced their membership in the minority and declared he no longer recognized the authority of Senate Minority Leader Senator Fernando A. Arroyo might be out of the country.

The eight are Lacson, Enrile, Pimentel, Jinggoy Estrada, Alfredo Lim, Jamby Madrigal, Loi Ejercito and her wife, Jinggoy.

Pimentel said the Senate leadership should not be changed "in the middle of the term" but said he was encouraged with bringing about President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation in worry about the Senate presidency.

"That's not the priority. My priority is the economy and not everything else is secondary to me," he said.

Lacson said he was not aware of moves to unseat Drilon, or of other unresolved parties trying to court the senators.

He said the minority was also not overtaking efforts to get the 13 senators needed to install a new Senate President. *TJ Burgonio and Rachel Lathop Arevalo*

GMA's US trip is a go

By Christine O. Avendaño

PANDEMIC Macapagal-Arroyo has barely out of Malacañang three days, but her officials said she will be packing through with her visit to the United States in September. Bulacan consulting (Malacañang that would prevent her from doing so.

"I believe it's a go unless there are other events that would take place which would prevent her from departing," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters yesterday when asked about her US visit, which spends 1 until 15 days.

Earlier yesterday, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo told reporters that he has no reason needed that the President make the trip because this was "important" for the Philippines.

Romulo announced reporters that the President was set to attend a summit of the United Nations General Assembly in September.

FLY ON EXECUTIVE ECONOMY CLASS WITH SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Nonstops from Singapore to Los Angeles or New York.

Travel in elegance & comfort on Singapore Airlines' Executive Economy Class

Wider seats and 11" screen (approx.) • In-seat power supply to keep your laptop going

Image 9-inch personal screen • Increased storage area behind every seat

Adjustable lapset and generous seat recline

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Senate to bar Chavez for contemptuous antics

By Jaime Laforga Jarvellana

SENATORS briefly agreed yesterday to punish investor Frank Chavez for showing "contemptuous" behavior to the Senate during the investigation last week.

The decision was arrived at after a closed-door meeting at the Plenat Hotel attended by 12 majority and minority senators after the attendance of the Senate committees on public order and good.

The committees also agreed to scale down or postpone the planning investigation until after the State of the Nation address of the President to Congress.

The chairman of the committees is on the Arroyo (Senate) Committee, Sen. Edward Villar, chair of the public order committee, said.

But Villar ruled out detention for Chavez, saying he would only be penalized by barring him from appearing as counsel to parties in the next Senate hearings.

"But we could agreed to discuss the issue tomorrow with Senate President Juan," Villar said.

Juan said he would consider the recommendations of the committees because there are no definite sanctions provided for in the Senate rules.

It took the committees one week to act on the matter. Red Sen. Richard Gordon right after Chavez thanked and pointed to him while he was getting his chair, ordered jailtrip Inspector Jacinto Cinco to the Senate hearing last Tuesday.

Chavez said Gordon was treating him like an accused and declined he would rather be held in contempt of the Senate rather than in contempt of justice.

What Chavez did was unprecedented but unlike past "offenders" who were punished on the spot because Villar suspended the hearings just as Gordon and Chavez were exchanging heated words.

Gordon who have been detained unofficially on making protected remarks against senators in hearings from Barry Juan to the chairman of Senate at the office of the Senate sergeant at arms.

Ten senators reportedly voted to cite Chavez for contemptuous while two—Miriam Defensor Santiago and Aquilino Pimentel, Juan Ponce Enrile, Panfilo Lacson, Angara Estrada, Lito and Madrigal—voted for the opposition.

Villar said no morning hearings will be held until after the SONA or the joint opening of Congress on Monday. No date has been set.

Villar said this will depend on whether there would be new witnesses and on what the president of the Senate would be in the coming weeks.

He said the Senate committees would no longer need Cayas and all other witnesses presented by Congress as evidence Oscar Cruz.

"If he has no more witnesses, the group is done with. He will discuss if we will open a new area in the parking investigation," Villar said.

Suspected drug lord back in RP

By Margie C. Ortiz

THE ALLEGED owner of one of the biggest shabu laboratories in the country has come home to face drug charges against him.

Cedric Tan Ty, or Gilbert de Asua Tan, arrived last night from Hong Kong at the Ninoy Aquino International airport, according to Richard Gordon, chief of Investigation Intelligence Philippines Bureau.

The NBI official said the Filipino-Chinese suspect was escorted by Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, Senior Undersecretary Ernesto Pineda, and Assistant Bureau of Immigration Intelligence Division chief Edmund Tayag and Antonio Calibayan.

"Our informants revealed that this high-profile fugitive is one of the top officers of a Chinese drug triad," Tinio said.

Tan, 20, a Chinese-Filipino who holds a Philippine passport, was arrested by customs officers in Hong Kong late last year on a drug-related charge, Tinio said.

Allegedly, raided from the room safe hiding $400,000 in HK and Hong Kong notes, as well as a small quantity of "ice" methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu (and cocaine) hydrochloride and beer for the suspect's personal use.

He was also allegedly found carrying a number of passbooks to bank accounts that contained deposits amounting to $11 million.

Tan was allegedly behind the operation of three shabu laboratories and warehouses that were raided by anti-narcotics agents in Muntinlupa City, Cebu.

Anti-narcotics agents seized 675 kg of the drug worth P1.35billion and arrested 11 people, including three Filipinos, three Chinese, two Malaysians, two Taiwanese and one Korean.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT

Edna Bonnie G. Polavale

OPENING TODAY

The Island

Directed by Michael Bay

Stars Ewan McGregor, Scarlett Johansson

RATED PG

Injustice apparent in dismissal of Revillame case–Alentajan

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE PROSECUTOR monopolized her foreshadows. But job was merely to determine the existence of probable cause.

This was the indignant reaction of Southern Dominican, lawyer of tabloid editor Ma. Salvacion Aun, upon learning that Quezon City prosecutor Consuelo Espinosa dismissed the charge of libel against Willie Revillame in April.

Interpreting evidence

"[Espinosa] interpreted the evidence as if she were the judge. What kind of prosecutor is she? Her work was just to ascertain whether or not the suspect, Willie, a liable to stand for trial," Alentajan said.

In a five-page resolution, Espinosa dismissed the complaint for "lack of probable cause." She said she found no corroborating evidence to sustain Aun' charges.

Aun had accused Revillame of making inappropriate sexual advances on her in March 2005.

Espinosa said the evidence failed to establish that an act of lewdness "using force or intimidation" had been committed. She added that the apology card Revillame reportedly gave Aun in installment for the fondest was only "proof of good faith and earnestness."

"Her absolute to interpret ing whether or not pieces of evidence are true. That's not her job. She said the card was simply a sign of good will, and she, judge?" Essentially, if positive and negative pieces of evidence are presented, the positive evidence prevails," Alentajan explained.

The lawyer added: "She's guilty of grave ignorance of the law. She doesn't deserve to be a fiscal. If a fiscal renders an unjust decision, he or she could be administratively and criminally liable. She could be disbarred."

Alentajan also noted that copies of the resolution had been distributed to the media as early as July 1, yet they still have not received an official copy.

Deliberate leaks?

"When I have seen me right now it just a hated copy," Alentajan told Inquirer Entertainment last week. "The story came out on TV Patrol the same day the resolution was released. Injustice is very apparent here. There is deliberate intent to deprive us of a copy," he said.

Alentajan added that Aun was now considering filing a motion for reconsideration or lodging a complaint against Rotonda before the Ombudsman or the Department of Justice.

In her complaint, Aun said Revillame crashed her breasts and forced her to hold his private parts. Aun said Revillame kissed her forcibly on the lips, ears and cheeks.

According to Aun' affidavit, the TV host invited her and Boogie's Journal Tonight colunnist Ms. Lillian Bordado to his home in Capitol Hills, Quezon City, last one night. On their way back to Pasil's Point on Mrs. Jonas Asuncion, where Bordado was pushed, Revillame reportedly assaulted Aun. When she tried to protect, Aun said, Revillame screwed her mouth with his hand.

When the two women transferred to Bordado' cars, Revillame "forced himself into the seat," and assaulted Aun again, she said in her complaint.

In his counter-affidavit, Revillame denied committing any of the sex Aun had accused him of, "much less with force and violence."

Revillame's lawyer Dante Lavandan said his client was very pleased with the dismissal.

Barbie leaves Cradle to go solo

By Pachela Concepcion
Core Buzz

AT 20, leaving two popular bands in a span of one years, Barbie Almalbis feels it's time to pursue new directions as a singer-songwriter.

A few weeks ago, Almalbis played her last few gigs as a member of Barbie's Cradle, which she formed after the breakup of Hungry Young Poets—one of the most promising groups/bands to emerge from the local alternative rock scene in the mid-'90s.

The decision to leave Barbie's Cradle, Almalbis said, was not a painful one, as opposed to her earlier acrimonious parting of ways she had with Hungry Young Poets. After talking in her band mates to express her desires and new priorities, Almalbis proceeded to inform Wyngard Tracy, who had been managing Barbie's Cradle for the past two years. Both the band and manager understood her decision.

Almalbis recently bagged a lucrative deal setting and singing the latest Close Up toothpaste commercial jingle. She sat down with Inquirer Entertainment and manager Tommy Tanchanguin for this interview.

Tanchanguin's management outfit and independent record label, 12 Stone Records, is handling Kitchie Nadal and a new band, Rocks Dolly. It's a reunion of sorts for Owen, since he was the first manager of Hungry Young Poets and Barbie's Cradle.

Why go solo at this point?

It came naturally. I've always had a desire to go solo, although it should not be misinterpreted that I was not happy with Barbie's Cradle. I had a wonderful working relationship with my band mates. But I also have this hunger to explore new territory. Creatively, Barbie's Cradle was too raw. We recorded our last album two years ago. Most [in writing new songs, preparing for a solo album] within the year.

Were you unhappy with Wyngard Tracy as manager?

On the contrary, he was doing his job really well. We were okay—we had regular gigs. He did say he wasn't closing the door.

'I have this hunger to explore new territory,' she says

BARBIE is also concentrated to finish college.

What brought you and Tommy Tanchanguin together again?

We belong to the same Christian church, at the time I was contemplating on leaving Barbie's Cradle, I remember seeing him. But it took some time before I talked to him about my plans. Things fell into place. He said he was interested in handling my career again.

8 out of 10 Filipinos want GMA out, says Pulse Asia poll

ART FOR DUMMIES. An artist from an activist group, Bayan Muna, sculpts the face of President Arroyo's effigy which will be paraded during its planned demonstration outside the Batasang Pambansa tomorrow. Pro-Arroyo militias led by Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo (in Maoist attire) on Monday. ARNOLD ALMACEN

ALLIANCE of labor groups and unions, including the Partido ng Manggagawa Pilipinas, hold a separate rally at Makati's central district but with the same bad theory. ARNOLD ALMACEN

Not 30 percent of Filipinos, Dr. Gazmin is the best person to lead the country, followed by deposed President Joseph Estrada (19 percent) and Sen. Panfilo Lacson (16 percent).

The President remained a poor fourth with 8 percent.

In Metro Manila, numbers not only wanted the President out but they chose three others, Lacson (26 percent), Dr. Gazmin (15 percent), and Estrada (9 percent) ahead of her (7 percent) as the best person to lead the country.

Incoherently, Susan Roces, who has observed calm for her to join politics, was chosen by 7 percent, the same figure as that of the President, as the best person to lead the country.

Tabunda noted that the choices of her leader was the only significant difference between the July Metro Manila survey and the four nationwide surveys.

In Metro Manila, the President (25 percent) emerged on top of the list of public figures unacceptable to lead the country ahead of retired Army chief Pantaleon Alvas (17 percent), Dr. Gazmin (12 percent), Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. (12 percent), Estrada (9 percent), Roces (8 percent) and Lacson (5 percent).

Unacceptable nationwide

Nationwide, Mr. Arroyo (10 percent) ranked No. 1 on the list of the most unacceptable leader for the country ahead of former President Fidel V. Ramos (26 percent), Bro. Eddie Villanueva (23 percent), Roces (22 percent) and Dr. Gazmin (20 percent).

Tabunda noted that the June nationwide survey had similar results but the same question in Mr. Arroyo, Ramos and Villanueva emerged the top three most unacceptable leader.

In further rebuke Malacañang's claim of divergent results between surveys in Metro Manila and the provinces, Tabunda said the June nationwide survey showed no evidence of an urban-rural divide in which performance and trust ratings of Ms Arroyo and opinion on her exercising to serve as president of the country are concerned.

Despite the political and economic problems, 67 percent of the people in Metro Manila believe that there is hope for the Philippines. Only 17 percent have given up hope on the country, according to Pulse Asia.

In addition, 74 percent of Metro Manilans believe that it is not necessary to impose martial law in the country. Eighteen percent are in favor of martial rule.

AJC Cabacungan Jr.

Atienza and Binay: Best of pals, best of foes

Atienza and Binay deserved the crowns of democracy in 1986, when the First Edsa "People Power" revolution toppled Marcos and swept Corazon C. Aquino, widow of slain senator and staunch Marcos critic Benigno Aquino Jr., to power.

The two mayors were among Aquino's appointees in her administration. Atienza became general manager of the National Housing Authority, while Binay became acting mayor of Makati. Later, they both ran for mayor, and were elected—Atienza in Manila and Binay in Makati.

When Joseph Estrada's presidency came under attack with allegations of graft and corruption in 2000, Atienza and Binay stood behind him, even when hundreds of thousands called for the lead actor's ouster upon the collapse of an impeachment trial.

Ayala protest

Then taking opposite positions on the questioned Ayala property was the first time Binay and Atienza took opposing sides of the political fence.

Since the start of the month, Binay, chair of the United Opposition (UNO), has led three local assembly and Senate protests in the Ayala Triangle, Bonifacio Business district, peaking last Wednesday with a crowd of roughly 40,000 "mega-Senate" adversaries.

Three days later, Atienza was at the forefront of Saturday's pro-Arroyo counter rally at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila's Rizal Park in Luneta, matching Binay's anti-Arroyo protest with a larger gathering of between 45,000 and 60,000 students, government employees and ordinary folk, who cheered for the controversy-wounded President.

Asked whether he would allow the opposition to stage protest actions in Manila, particularly something as huge as the one held in Makati, Atienza said, "Of course, I have always allowed [rallies] in them but they [anti-PGMA groups] always prefer Plaza Miranda or Welcome Rotonda."

Asked whether he would welcome Atienza's pro-Arroyo allies in Makati, Binay chuckled and said: "Eh, are still welcome them, because those that would come here are [mga] mayor[s]! [laughter]."

Luneta rally

The opposition earlier declared that it was not only planning more rallies but was also opening new fronts in its campaign to force the resignation of Mr. Arroyo, but Atienza seemed unfazed by this, saying his camp was planning no other rallies as "we do not intend to compete with anybody."

"Wala na, that's it. Enough [already]. We just wanted to get the sentiments of the people about the issue and we accomplished presently just that—that the general public still wants to address to the rule of law. I understand their [opposition's] kind of anxiety, but we do not intend to compete with them or with anybody," he said.

In his loyalty to Mr Arroyo, Atienza had also disdained the declared unanimous decision of the Liberal Party, which he chaired, to turn its back on the President for allegations of election rigging with the release of the "Hello Garci?" tapes, and the tagging of presidential husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, and son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, as taking "jueteng" payola.

One-sentence target

Atienza and Binay do share one pressing adversary their ongoing offensive against Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

"We have a common target. Chairman Bayani Fernando, that fight on the leadership of the MMDA continues. I'm telling you, we have a common stand on the continued leadership of the MMDA," said Binay.

The mayors, himself a former MMDA chair, went on to describe as "very, very, very very wrong" he and Atienza's ongoing battle against Fernando, saying the opposition and administration have to unite, on the other hand, has stood steadfast on his management strategy.

Binay and Atienza, as members of the Nacionalista Party, had been among the leading critics of Fernando's policies, particularly on traffic management.

Political dynasty

The two high profile mayors had also been accused of building political dynasties by their opponents during the last local elections.

Atienza's son, Kim, a former councilor, ran for reelection but lost. Kim now serves as the executive director of the city's Manila Employment Services Office (MESO) and chair of the Task Force Kampana, Atienza's other son, Ali, is presently the chair of the Manila Sports Council. Pia son-to-law Miles Rivera, of the publishing elite and political battle, is the congressman of the city's third district.

Binay's wife Elenita was former mayor of Makati, and his son Jejomar Erwin or Jun Jun is a second-term councilor of the first district. Binay is said to be grooming Jun Jun to follow in his footsteps to City Hall.

Have the two mayors seen or spoken to each other more than they've taken two opposing sides?

Atienza said he and Binay would see each other when they attend Sunday Mass. "We're still the best of friends. We even go to the same church [Sacred Heart Novitiate]. It's our favorite church, Ayo [Binay] and I have several hospital for each other," he said.

Binay said the church was in fact Atienza's Village, Makati, where his family resides. "We are the best of friends ... We respect each other ... This is all part of the essence of democracy. We need tolerance and accommodation," he said.

Loren trying to win protest in media, says Noli's lawyer

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE LAWYER of Vice President Noli de Castro yesterday accused Senator Sen. Loren Legarda of trying to win the election protest she filed before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) through publicity.

Romulo Macalintal, De Castro's lead counsel in the PET, said Legarda was misleading both the public and the tribunal by launching a media campaign promoting to alleged fraud committed in areas which were not covered in her protest in connection with the 2004 vice presidential election.

"There she goes again. And looks like we have not seen the end of it yet," Macalintal said, referring to Legarda's latest presentation of evidence to the media of alleged tampered election returns, including the presidential election.

"Ms. Legarda appears too desperate in her bid to win the Vice Presidential post. She failed to realize that if the returns she showed media are fake, these cannot be admitted as evidence by the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET)," Macalintal stressed.

He said it was not the first time that the Legarda camp resorted to media in seeking redress of her grievances despite the fact that her protest was already being audited by the PET, which was empowered by the Supreme Court justices.

Macalintal said that Legarda forgot that in her manifestation, she herself admitted that all the returns coming from Congress which she assured to be examined were genuine and duly executed.

That being so, Macalintal explained, she cannot change or amend her position now before the media through the expediency of a press conference.

"She has to presenter her case before the PET. Perhaps she has realized that cannot make it legally at PET so she is trying to win her case via trial by publicity," he said.

Earlier, Macalintal dared Legarda to pin her allegations and computations under oath.

He also challenged her camp to submit her tentative election computations to the PET verified under oath if indeed she believed in her charges against de Castro.

But Legarda defended her use of the mass media in exposing what she claimed were the irregularities that marked the elections.

"What is he afraid of? Does she think I'm bound fools?" Legarda told the Inquirer when asked to comment on Macalintal's statement.

Legarda said it was "of urgent national interest that the public should know about the truth of the 2004 elections."

She continued, "The public has a right to information on matters of public interest. This is especially true in case of elections in which the sovereign will of the people has been expressed by choosing their representatives in Congress, their local officials and, most important, the highest government executives, namely, the President and Vice President."

Legarda said that because of the "Hello Garci" tape exposure, most Filipinos now believed that the 2004 elections were tainted with massive fraud, especially the presidential and vice presidential canvassing of votes, as shown in the latest surveys of independent pollsters.

GMA steps into pre-need mess

By Gil Cabuenagan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is fond of stepping in to extinguish the pre-need insurance scare by providing quick, 11-point support to 1.4 million plan holders that would enable them to continue their studies this school year.

"I am instructing the Cabinet to step up the implementation of the national plans of our the economic agenda. I promised to win the people's (the) with good governance and re-

gent reforms," said the President in a speech during the 107th anniversary of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Malacañang yesterday.

The President cited education, especially pre-need plan holders, cheap medicine, health insurance, and water and electricity as the areas of concern in her reform agenda.

"I have instructed our Good Commission on Higher Education and working with other friends in other branches of government to find a way to have release for those students who enrolled under the pre-need education plans, so that they will be able to take their examinations. Those are hard things are hard to do, but we have to do them," said the President.

Some 1.4 million plus holders of the financially distressed pre-need firms College Assurance Plan (CAP), Pacific Plans and Phoenix Plans are in danger of missing school this year because of delays in the payment of their tuition fees.

'Gloria still her own best PR'

(2ND) her "natural self" show is still the best "PR" for President Macapagal-Arroyo, says a senior Cabinet member in reaction to latest efforts by Palace spin doctors to give her a "friendlier" persona and bolster her already battered image.

Asked why Secretary Alberto Romulo insisted that the latest dips in Ma Arroyo's popularity ratings were traceable not to her personality but to the "political capital she spent" as a consequence of her "unpopular" economic reforms such as new taxes.

"The President is the most natural self is at her best. She's sincere and she knows what she's doing," Romulo said in last Monday's Malacañang Night hosted by the Manila Overseas Press Club at the Malacañang in Manila.

"I like her as she is. It's good to be natural," he said.

Rob Cinco Evans

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, July 28, 2005
16th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ex 16:1-5, 9-15
Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9

Jesus left the house and sat down by the lakeside. As many people gathered around him, he got in a boat. There he sat while the whole crowd stood on the shore, and he spoke to them in parables about many things.

"The sower went out to sow. And as he was sowing, some seeds fell along the path and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground where there was little soil, and they sprang up quickly because the soil was not deep. But as soon the sun rose the plants were scorched and withered because they had no roots. Again other seeds fell among thistles; and the thistles grew and choked the plants. Still other seeds fell on good soil and produced a crop; some produced a hundredfold, others sixty and others thirty. If you have ears, then hear!"

Commentary:

Jesus sits in a boat (or wasn't) and tells them a story about a farmer sowing seed. The seed falls on the path, eaten by birds, on hard ground with a thin layer of soil that grows at the seed but has no staying power (a shortage of water), falls among thistles by the side of field and weed and grows but choked and finally in the field. There is a harvest—different levels of growth and amounts of grain: one hundred, sixty, thirty-fold. If you have ears, hear! We've heard it so many times...but are we the field. The word of God has been sown in us year after year and what is our harvest of justice, of peace, of hope and life for the poor, of truth and integrity. The Word is for the world and others that need it, for food, for survival and food; remember for all—are we responsive to the sixtyfold or one hundred fold? Is there a harvest of justice in our world or all where 45 percent of the world goes to bed at night? Or has the word fallen on hard ground?

Claretian Publications, Inc., Publication No. 10-48, Ugly Horseshoe, Quezon City, PO BOX 4014 Manila, Philippines. Tel. No. 721-7801 fax 921-7620, E-mail: pub@cmf.org Website: http://www.bible.cbcp.org/ClaretianPublications/ or http://claretianpublications.com/Default.aspx?tabid=56

Carmina superjelly na daw!

"Sa mga kambal ko," sabi ni Carmina, "dahil meron na silang NIDO Jelly Watches!"

Bida ngayon sa mga kambal ng NIDO Full Cream na boost strong con. Nang dumalaw ang reporter na ito sa ViLarroel residence, nasa-sout ng kambal ang 4 na designs na pinanggigilgilan ng camera. Parang ang tingin ni Carmina na mga makukulay na relo. "Ngayon naman 'pag nagsawa sila, pahihiramin ako ng Jelly Watch nina Mavy at Cassy," sabi Carmina. "Para mas mahaba pa, lili na lang sil ako ng NIDO para may Jelly Watch na rin ako!" Hanggang August na lang ang promo kaya bili na kayo ng NIDO!

Get the new Jelly Watch for free. Collect all four designs!

Gonzalez sitting on $2-M bribery complaint vs Perez

From page A1

The senior prosecutor told the Inquirer Gonzalez had refused to ask for legal assistance from his counterparts in Hong Kong in getting the bank records of Perez and his cohorts, effectively stopping the Office of the Ombudsman from investigating the complaint.

The prosecutors said the Office of the Ombudsman had been requesting Gonzalez since November last year to "seek legal assistance" from the justice secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in the criminal investigation of Perez, Ernest de Leon Saraiba, Romeo Arano and several John and Jane Does.

Arano is a former director of United Coconut Planters' Bank and executive vice president of DCBank, while Saraiba is a former consultant of Coutts Bank for the Philippines.

"We have sent him a follow-up letter almost every month, but Secretary Gonzalez has been sitting on it," the prosecutors said.

The Office of the Ombudsman was requesting on the request in 2003 of the Swiss government, which was then investigating Perez for allegedly laundering $2 million in a Swiss bank account, according to the Department of Justice. Money laundering is the process of disguising illegal sources of funds from criminal activities.

The Office of the Ombudsman would send the bank records, sworn statements and other pertinent documents related to Perez to establish a "paper trail" of the origin of the $2 million in alleged bribe, which found its way into Coutts Bank in Hong Kong on Feb. 23, 2001.

"The last word we heard is that Secretary Gonzalez wanted to know if all the necessary documents were complete. He said he just wanted to be sure," the prosecutor, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

Insulted

Gonzalez acknowledged taking some time before acting on a request of the Swiss Embassy that it be furnished documents on the "Jacobo case."

But Gonzalez said he had already turned over the documents to the Department of Foreign Affairs, which was to send the materials to the Swiss Embassy, about three months ago.

"At the first instance, I did not want to give it due course because I felt insulted by the Swiss government. It does not mean that when ambassador ask us for something, we have to jump right away," he told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

Gonzalez was referring to the first request of the Swiss Embassy, which was received through the Office of the Ombudsman, which in turn brought the matter to Gonzalez.

"I have to say this because I want to be candid about it," he said of his submission that he initially ran on the request.

Iropsa deal

The criminal investigation stemmed from a complaint filed by Jimenez that Perez, the DOJ, justice secretary of President Macapagal-Arroyo, had asked for $2 million in January 2001 just days after Ms. Arroyo assumed the presidency.

Jimenez filed the plunder charges with the Office of the Ombudsman on Dec. 23, 2002.

Perez had demanded that he execute an affidavit against certain officials, which would be used against them if they would not support Ms. Arroyo in 2004, according to Jimenez.

He said that when he refused, Perez turned and threatened him in front of his wife. It was Jimenez who suggested that he just pay up $2 million, to which Perez agreed, according to Jimenez.

Jimenez said he raised the amount to between No. 182 13706 in the Coutts Bank in Hong Kong on Feb. 23, 2001. The account was later traced to Jimenez.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson claimed that the $2 million came from a $14-million bribe for the approval of the contract for the Cadena-Bataan-Bataan hydroelectric plant let by the Philippine National Oil Company-Philippine Power Generation Corporation (Napocor).

Perez reportedly endorsed the contract, which was approved during the Estrada administration. He has denied the allegation.

Former Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama had said the $2 million was different from the $2.4 million bribe for the approval of the bypass contract.

Confidential memo

In a confidential memorandum dated July 12, 2004, the Ombudsman asked the DOJ "to make the proper representation with the Honorable Secretary of Justice of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) in accordance with the pertinent bank records and documents pertaining to document No. 801 13706 maintained and kept in Coutts Bank, Hong Kong, as well as the sworn statements and/or affidavits of possible witnesses pursuant to the existing and operative bilateral HKSAR-SMS Agreement Concerning Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters."

The amount of $1,999,980 was transferred from the Trade and Commerce Bank Cayman Islands to account No. 182 13706, Coutts Bank, Hong Kong, on Feb. 23, 2001, according to the memo.

The Coutts Bank account was allegedly opened and maintained by Saraiba, according to the memo.

Fund transfers

The memo said that on March 6, 2001, $1 million was transferred from Coutts Bank Account No. 801 13706 to an unidentified account in DBS Private Bank Branch in Singapore.

On May 23, 2001, three fund transfers were made from Account No. 182 13706, according to the memo. The fund transfers included $250,000 to bank draft issued in Ramon C. Neves, broker-in-lieu of Perez; $260,000 to an unidentified account of Arano in Citibank, Manila; and $750,000 to an unidentified account at DBS Private Bank Branch in Singapore.

"The request for legal assistance is intended to secure authentic and admissible evidence for purposes of prosecuting the suspects of allegations of the complainant and for possible criminal prosecution in court against former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, Ernest de Leon Saraiba, Romeo Antonio Castillo Arano and John and Jane Does," according to the memo.

The Ombudsman would need "authentic or certified true copies" of the complete records of account No. 801 13706 which allegedly belonged to Jacobo and the complete records "of any and all bank accounts" in Hong Kong which may be pertinent to the request, the memo also said.

Records of deposits, transfers

The bank records requested by the Ombudsman would have included signature cards, documents of account opening, account ledger cards, periodic account statements, records of withdrawals, deposits and transfers, wire transfer documents, correspondence to and from the account holders as well as all communications related to the account, and instructions/ official approval.

The DOJ request for legal assistance would also have allowed the Ombudsman to gain access to sworn affidavits pertaining to the identity of the persons who opened the account, the circumstances under which the accounts were opened, the nature and structure of each account, the sources of deposits as well as the identity of the persons referring such deposits and disposition, according to the memo.

The memo said Perez, Saraiba, Arano and the John Jane Does were being investigated for possible plunder, graft and corruption, bribery through commission, bribery as well as extension of Presidential Decree No. 46 and Republic Act No. 7653.

Justice secretary only Perez would be liable for violation of RP 46, which imposes punishment on public officials who accept or give gifts, and RA 7653, which defines the role of member and other[illegible] of the public officials and employees.

Perez went on a 30-day leave after the bribery scandal broke out in 2000. But he was never reinstated.

Bad experience

Gonzalez explained his action, stating that the country had had a bad experience with foreign governments on their endeavors, which were also done in acting on the Philippine government's requests.

He cited, for example, the long years it took for the Swiss government to act on the request of the Philippines that it be furnished bank documents and other key information relative to the Marcos wealth.

"How long did we work on the Marcos wealth?" he asked.

When he received the first request from the Swiss government, Gonzalez recalled telling Chief State Counsel Ricardo Paras III "we hold it to ourself."

But he said he decided to act on it when the second request came.

"I have already sent the documents to the DFA. It's now in their hands," he said.

Gonzalez denied having sat on the matter to save Perez. He said the issue had been used against him during the hearing of the Commission on Appointments.

LOW & BEHOLD

AS LOW AS ₱1,299.00

MANILA-CEBU V.V. &

AS LOW AS ₱1,899.00

MANILA-DAVAO V.V. ON

BOARD THE NEW AIRBUS A320.

AVAIL OF CEBU PACIFIC'S LOW FARES & FLY ON BOARD THE NEW AIRBUS A320. HURRY & MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

CEBU PACIFIC

The new Filipino time.

Pagcor linked to drive to kill impeach complaint

From page A1

chair had been calling up several members of the minority and majority blocs in the chamber as part of a well-heeled drive by the administration to save the Arroyo presidency.

The administration congressmen told the lawmen that Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino had asked him not to endorse the impeachment complaint filed last month by lawyer Oliver Lozano.

"Yes, he (Genuino) called me up," said the lawmaker who asked not to be identified.

The lawmaker's claim drew a swift denial from a Pagcor official.

"That's not true. We're very apolitical. We're not involved in that," Pagcor spokesperson Edward King said in a phone interview.

Not for sale

King said that Pagcor officials had no dealings with lawmakers except in attempts to stop going House inquiry into Pagcor's privatization. On these occasions, it's usually Pagcor president Rafael Francisco who attends the hearings, he added.

The administration congressman's denunciation of an administration plan to derail the impeachment process came as opposition lawmakers said they would file up to 10 criminal charges, including election fraud and corruption, against Mr Arroyo.

The lawmaker and Genuino did not divulge any specific amount to convince him to go all-out for Mr Arroyo.

"The conversation did not reach that point because I already made clear to him early on that I'm not for sale," the lawmaker said, adding that he would vote according to his conscience.

But he added: "Genuino ... will play a very crucial part in the impeachment process because the money could come from Pagcor."

House inner circle

Another administration lawmaker, who also asked not to be identified, confirmed that an inner circle made up of House leaders had drawn up a plan to block the impeachment complaint against the wife.

The lawmaker said Malacañang's allies in the chamber had dangled offers, including posh hotel funds, to lawmakers to dissuade them from voting in favor of the impeachment complaint.

"There's an offer. There's a list. All members of Lakas are being called. No one is exempted," the lawmaker said.

At least 79 lawmakers—one-third of the 226-member House of Representatives—must approve the impeachment complaint before it is referred to the Senate, which will act as a trial court.

He said the Department of Budget and Management had yet to release the 2004 pork barrel allocations of House members.

"The congressmen are caught in a bind because their constituents have been pressuring them to fulfill their pledges in terms of infrastructure and livelihood projects. The money will prove irresistible to many," the lawmaker said.

Santa coming to town

According to him, among the first ones to be contacted by the House's "inner circle" were Pangasinan Robert Jaworski Jr and several congressmen from Visayas and Mindanao.

Representatives Jaworski and Edmund Reyes holed the ruling party Lakas-CMD at the height of the congressional inquiry into the "Hyatt 10" audio tapes.

The lawmaker said several opposition lawmakers had also been approached.

Iloilo Rep. Raul del Mar was earlier said some Malacañang officials had placed members of the minority, including Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, Ronaldo Zamora and Aquilino Pimentel Jr., on the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's (PCSO) list of officials to be charged with electoral sabotage.

"Santa Claus is coming to town," said Enrile, referring to the Malacañang would return the favor by releasing money to the point of pork barrel allocations.

The administration lawmaker, who asked not to be identified, said the House inner circle had already "strategized" but needs to ensure that all members of the administration coalition would not endorse the impeachment complaint.

"In exchange for continued support for Ms Arroyo, each of them will be given P1 million worth of 'soft projects,'" said the lawmaker.

Looking for witnesses

Opposition lawmakers are looking for witnesses among the 13 former Cabinet members and top aides who have quit the Arroyo administration in recent weeks—some of whom said they were willing to testify against their former boss.

Imelda Nicolas, who quit as head of the government's antiporn commission, said she and other ex-Cabinet members were still trying to verify "if we know something relevant to the charges."

Another ex-Cabinet member, who declined to be identified for fear of reprisal, said some of them were familiar with allegedly questionable government transactions, including the release of emergency disaster funds to some political leaders.

The opposition concedes that dominant pro-Arroyo lawmakers could kill an impeachment complaint if they vote along party lines—a prospect many but could set off a military uprising or another "people power" revolt.

The lawmakers and private lawyers scrambled to prepare charges, evidence and witness names in time to file an impeachment complaint by Thursday, said Representative Zamora, head of the opposition's legal team.

Congress will convene next week. An impeachment trial—the second in four years in this deeply divided country—would be a politically explosive exercise amid shockproof anti-Arroyo protests and rumors about brewing coups.

"The charges against her would revolve around the crimes of cheating, lying and stealing," House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said.

The main charge centers on allegations that Mr Arroyo rigged last year's closely contested presidential election, but Zamora said there could be up to 10 criminal offenses that she may have committed during more than four years in power.

He said the opposition would give Mr Arroyo "day in court," but urged her to step down to avoid a drawn-out process. With reports from *El Inquirer* and *AP*

GUILTY?: Santa Claus is coming to town.

HELLO ... It's me, Efraim Genuino. Opposition congressmen claim that Pagcor's top honcho has been swaping their favors allegedly to kill the impeachment complaint.

REP RONALDO ZAMORA: Lead prosecutor gets a call.

Philips Flat TV with Ambilight.

The Ambilight effect will fill your room and your eyes with the colour on your TV screen.

▲ P499,980.00 32PF9986 (127cm (50in) Plasma TV, Pixel Plus 2 & Ambilight) FREE DVD Home Theater System

▲ P449,980.00 42PF9996 (106.68cm (42in) LCD, Pixel Plus 2 & Ambilight) FREE DVD Home Theater System

▲ P349,980.00 42PF9966 (106.68cm (42in) Plasma TV, Pixel Plus 2 & Ambilight) FREE DVD Home Theater System

▲ P229,980.00 32PF9966 (81.28cm (32in) LCD, Pixel Plus 2 & Ambilight) FREE DVD Home Theater System

Make your dreams come true.

Turn up your experience with a wide range of Home Entertainment systems from Philips.

▲ P229,980.00 32PF9966 (81.28cm (32in) Plasma TV, Widescreen Cinema) FREE DVD Home Theater System

▲ P179,980.00 26PF9966 (66.04cm (26in) LCD, Pixel Plus) FREE DVD Player

▲ P139,980.00 20PF9966 (50.8cm (20in) LCD, Pixel Plus) FREE DVD Player

▲ P149,980.00 32PF9946 (81.28cm (32in) Progressive TV, Pixel Plus) FREE DVD Player

▲ P119,980.00 32PF9946 (81cm (32in) Progressive TV) FREE DVD Home Theater System

▲ P89,980.00 42PF7946 (106.22cm (42in) Progressive TV) FREE DVD Home Theater System

• Abenson • Eon Appliance • EPICOR Phils. • Accenture Appliance • Asian Emporium • Metrotex Mktg. • Rose Mktg. • Pilipinas Makro • RJ Homes • Duty Free • Quality Appliance • CELA Group • Angeles Towers Group • SV Mktg. • R.Torres • Oro Appliance • Gaisano Mktg. • Cuenca's Angeles • AV Lucky

www.philips.com

PHILIPS

sense and simplicity

GMA to form truth commission

First page A1

simply dismiss calls for the resignation from office, and that through prayer, we can arrive at decisions for the common good that are based on moral principle," Ms Arroyo said in her letter to Cayetano.

"On the matter of moral accountability and the need to restore trust, I have initiated the creation of a commissioner similar body to look into the truth behind the issues surrounding the 'Hello Garci' tapes," she said.

Battling for political survival after a series of Cabinet resignations hit her, Ms Arroyo said she hoped such a commission would also look into the fact that the controversial tapes came "as a bane and as a nuisance that seems to give credence to the observation that various groups may be manipulating situations for their own agenda, perhaps with the aim of grabbing power."

She hoped that the process of searching for the truth will shed light on those dark days neither a word," Ms Arroyo said.

Presidential EO

Calls for Ms Arroyo to resign were ignored by supposed wiretapped conversations between her and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. Arroyo said an alleged plan to put her vote in last year's presidential election.

Close scholars of Ms Arroyo were also accused of taking bribes from "jueteng" operators.

Ms Arroyo's brother Bandy have denied the allegations.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye Jr. read the President's letter to radio and television.

Ground rules

Bunye told reporters that Ms Arroyo would issue an executive order stating the probe's composition and that she would be consulting "various stakeholders," like the CBCP, in selecting its members.

"The President would like to have the commission, or at least some of the members of the commission made known, before the State of the Nation Address next week," Bunye said.

He said it would be the commission members who would "come up with ground rules which will govern the conduct of the investigation."

Asked how Malacañang could ensure the commission would not be biased for Ms Arroyo, Bunye said he was sure that upon consultation between Ms Arroyo and the CBCP, the bishops would come up with people of "integrity and probity."

In his letter to Cayetano, Ms Arroyo said she read the CBCP's July 16 pastoral statement on the current crisis "with a deep sense of appreciation for their profound concern for the country and our people."

Mistrust of gov't

Ms Arroyo said she was saddened to realize that "our people were so mistrust[ful] of political system."

She added: "As President, I am greatly humbled to realize that I now join the Philippine people's long debt of service, a debt that to the best of the ability that God has given me, I must now try to repay."

Ms Arroyo said she had also taken to heart the bishops' admonition "to distance myself from the shoulder for reasons of trust is necessary as to be irreversible."

"I believe that subsequent events and conversations may have given a more balanced view to this question, and that my decision to stay in my office is the correct one," she said.

She defended her decision not to resign.

"If we allow our country's President to be pressured to resign under these circumstances, where the issues raised might have questionable or controversible basis. Then we expose our already weakened political system ... to the possibility of never ending political crises of a similar nature in the future."

'We're all sinners'

The President said: "Having made my decision, I have tried to make my peace with God as well. I trust in his infinite mercy and capacity to forgive all of us who are sinners."

She added: "I no hopefulness others, being human and so prone human compassion, are near the Lord, you will find their ears to nothing aside a quiet incline heart in the sin."

Ms Arroyo thanked the bishops for their guidance and closed her letter: "I wish to let them know that running constantly in the Lord, I have surrendered myself to His will."

"Our initial reaction is one of welcome," said CBCP secretary general Msgr. Hermenio Coronel. "We are united with her in prayer and discernment."

Lagos, in a television interview, Gorospe said: "The commission has to be impartial, this has to be objective, this has to be above politics ... This is a truth commission and we are after true truth but what will we do with its findings?"

Capella cautious

Capella reacted with caution. "We respect the government's choice of this option," he said in a text message. "At the moment we cannot comment on the (re-) birth of this body."

Archbishop Cruz said it was important to determine what the commission would do in case it found out the "truth" about Mr Arroyo's supposed phone conversations with Garcillano.

"I think the still unanswered issue that we are clear to me regarding this commission."

Cruz suggested that only people competent to answer the presidential legacy and evaluation of evidence be appointed.

He blasted the names of former Senate President Jovito Salonga, former Justice Jose Luciano, and former Commission on Elections Chairs Christian Monsod and Haydee Yorac.

'Purely political'

Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, head of the CBCP commission on public affairs, said perhaps would mostly likely not join the proposed commission if its function would be "purely political."

"It depends on the purpose," he said.

The CBCP on Monday expressed support for the establishment of such a commission to "be the groundwork for an unprecedented process."

DEAR BISHOPS Arroyo: Vice President Arroyo admits public mistrust in government in campaign. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye reads it to the media during the regular press briefing at the Palace.

Illegal, say legal eagles; diversionary, say critics

First page A1

Mr. added. "Even Sen. Sanders knew that."

The former senator, now a counsel for deposed President Joseph Estrada in the plunder trial of the Arroyo couple, said a commission was also unprecedented and he saw no need for highly credible individuals who would be willing to drop their respective businesses to take on what he expected would be a protracted task.

Diversionary tactic?

"Where will you find the people who can deal with this, a set of people who will not smile even during what?" he asked.

Sanggunian said after going through similar panels would take as long as 10 years.

In a text message, Sanggunian said that Congress could not create a commission to investigate itself.

Another critic, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, said the creation of the commission was a diversionary tactic aimed at sidetracking the impeachment process while trying to appease the Catholic Church.

Adding to the chaos

House Minority Leader Pimentel Enadio and Ako Bisaya Rep. Romulo Zamora assured that such a commission could further worsen the political crisis, noting that Congress and such a commission might reach different conclusions about the allegations against Ms Arroyo.

Pimentel also noted that a commission had no constitutional basis and it would not force the President or compel Arroyo to step down from the top perch of power and she elected in the election.

"Ah eto ani more or. It is a diversionary tactic the impeachment process and what if to findings differ from that of Congress? That will add to the chaos," Pimentel said.

"Can they force her out of office? Sure th findings force any finding officer? Instead of resolving chaos to the crisis, it will only add to the confusion. It's meant to counteract, placate and appease certain person."

Both Pimentel and Zamora pointed out that the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines had also recommended that the impeachment process should proceed if the President refused to resign.

Sanctuaries else

"Remember? They were the ones who pushed us to proceed with impeachment. Now that we're already here, they might as well help us," Zamora said.

"The President's allies also said that we should bring our complaints to Congress. But now that we did, they're trying to lead us somewhere else," Arroyo said.

Lacson warned that the administration might even see the proposed commission to water down the impeachment process.

"Even people who are for it (Arroyo) should not be included in the [impeachment] complaint because the commission is already biased," he said.

Escudero also questioned the impartiality of a commission whose members would be chosen by Ms Arroyo.

"It's going to be created through an EO [executive order] and the results the case to be [issues to] members. Is that fair?" he said.

South African precedent

Tomayo cited a historical precedent in South Africa, which also formed a truth commission to look into different issues relating to the apartheid period in that country.

He said that was different from what the Church and civil society groups in the Philippines were calling for, which was an investigative body like the Agrava Fact-Finding Commission, which looked into the 1983 Aquino-Galman double murder case.

"I think it would be wrong to use the (South African commission) to an extreme parameter, clearly, you are talking about a very specific case involving several telephone conversations," Zulueta said. He was referring to the so-called "Glorietagate tapes" involving controversial phone conversations between Ms Arroyo and an election commissioner.

Militant voices

Militant groups also rejected Ms Arroyo's plan.

"This will not stop the massive protest actions calling for Arroyo's ouster," Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) Chairman Rafael Mariano said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said: "Manipulation and pressure officer Gen to Cayetano said: "Mrs. Arroyo's commission will empower her to act to protect judges and executioners. But under no circumstances will the collective intelligence ... of 84 million Filipinos. She thinks we're not thinking." With reports from Marlo G. Rivera

WITH THE HONGMENG? In their namesake as background to Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Gabriela members raise high their concerns.

Wonder kid from Mindoro a Grade 1 dropout

First page A1

ers call him," the boy's mother Marivel said.

Ash started 4 on April 16.

In June, Ash went to school for the first time at the Good Shepherd Academy. He was immediately placed in Grade 2.

"When asked to draw a flag, he drew the whole campus with buildings, trees and all school," Ms Marivel said.

She often told his teachers: "I know that already" and asked several questions like why is there a need to write?" she added.

She reminded his classmates to behave. "Can't you read that (pointing to a sign, 'Please keep quiet')," Ashwin'd them.

Classmates asked him to read books to them, amused at his ability.

Too advanced

He surprised the girls with his seeming "flirt like me or you'll become my girlfriend."

After two weeks, he stopped attending school but soon he said he already knew the lessons.

Asked why "he did that said Ash was too advanced for Grade 1.

Just recently, his parents discovered his excellence in English is long-hand.

Ash likes to watch "Pinoy-hero" and "Shaolin Z" on VCD. But he keeps asking his parents like "Is Shiloh an animal or is he human?"

Also, he's glued to cable TV, preferring to watch the Animation Channel, Fox News, Hot Movies and National Geographic.

Ash also imitates Mike Enriquez's lines. "He usually have intermission ('Mid-word sing-word you do something?'

Recently, Ashwin he borrowed a video camera and recorded what his son could do from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The footage also showed a copy of his video.

Gifted child

Among other things, Ash explained the solar system, named the biggest and smallest continents, the 12 months of the year, the 7 days of the week and the different parts of speech.

Ash added and subtracted three digit numbers and explained how he got the answers. He read the clock, related stories and made some up.

"Today is Monday, June 14, 2010," he said. "Yesterday was Sunday. Tomorrow is Tuesday."

He knew all of these [when he was] 3. He's only able to record 8 seconds," said Ashton Jr.

Recently, his father got a computer so Ash could read up on videos using Encarta. He also loves the IDRI video games.

Genes

His parents modestly explained that Ash could not have inherited his exceptional genes from them. His mother, Montreal Alvarez Hinoguila, 28, a Commerce graduate, major in management, was only valedictorian. His father, Adrian Marcaida Jr., 33, is a teacher of Biology and MAPEH (Music, Arts, PE and Health) at the Barretto Aruge Memorial High School.

Adrian Jr. said Ash could have gotten the genes from his fourth generation relatives, like Armando Sinapati Hinoguila, former Oriental Mindoro Governor; Wenceslao Pelilio Arbaiza, former administrator, Ramon Gallego Fernandez, former associate justice of the Supreme Court, Manuel Manuella Gallego, first governor of Albay and Honorio Manuella, founder of the Barretto College.

Ash's parents said that they also had numbers in his or her mother's side.

Catholic prayers

Ash's evening lullaby is Bible reading.

According to his mother, "He learned it from the New Testament... Matthew 1:1...12 which goes, 'Happy are the poor in spirit.'"

He entered several Catholic prayers, even heard in the Secretes.

The church where Ash's family would go to Mass had an image of a chicken in the tower.

He asked parish priest Willy Alon, "How did the chicken get there (pointing to the tower)?" Ash would not believe that someone had made it, Ashton.

He also asked another priest, "If the story is the blood of Christ, are you a vampire?"

Another planet

When he was 3, Ash plotted things which he answered every morning. "Tanyon bonga like some?" he described the sprout.

Then he planted cosmic for 307 from until his grandmother. "I want to make a house here [in front of the house] for me and to live in ... Isla in Quezon."

One time, he heard the song "Heal the World" and asked his father, "How come the world is sick?"

His father told him about the problems of the world, including people who didn't care about the environment.

Ash became worried and said: "I'll heal them how to become good citizens by throwing garbage properly. Or maybe we have to look for another planet."

Discipline

"Ma, why you have to speak? Talk to me nicely," Ash once told his mom.

"So I asked him to stay in a corner," Marivel said.

Ash realized his mistake, went to his room and said, "I'm sorry," and then sobbed.

Once Ash caught his mom talking about another person and told her off: "Don't judge other people."

When his mom accidentally hurt herself, he said, "It's OK, forgive yourself."

At times, he would spell out a touching "I LOVE YOU, MOMMY," which would tug at Marivel's heart strings.

When Ash's parents fought, he would ask, "Why? Tell me, I can help."

To please his father, Ash said he wants to be a lawyer "so I can help the poor and the innocent."

To please his mother, he said he wants to be a doctor "so I can help the poor and the sick."

Then he would blurt out, "I want to be a bar (as in barrista), his favorite drink (although he has never watched the film on HBO)" which he would spell out loud.

Ash's parents consulted local leaders regarding Ash's exceptional development.

One in a million

Rev. Orbeta, former principal of a parochial school, said Ash could be one in a million and suggested he be brought to Manila where there were schools for gifted children like him.

Dr. Lourdes Quisumbing, former of the Department of Education Region 4 (Mimaropa) said his office didn't have the facilities for Ash in Mindoro but he would ask friends from the University of the Philippines and the Philippine Normal University to send the appropriate curriculum for Ash's talents.

Help needed

Ash is the wonder child every parental dreams of. However, according to his parents, they are ill-equipped to handle their boy genius.

"He is smarter to wonder and always asks about them. He loves instruments but we can't buy him any ... for some an organ," Marivel said.

Ash has to, who would spend most of her time answering answers to Ash's questions, added: "He has a lot of questions. Can there are some nothing and he asked. 'Why is there left and right?'"

Ash's love is here in Mindoro, but for Ash's sake, we're open to moving out. We need the best for him," said Marivel.

[There who want to help Ash may call Marivel at (0928-2000155 or Adrian Jr. at (0929-8293089)

Single canvassing area for ARMM eyed

By Jeroom Ating

THE COMMISSION on Elections said it is considering a single canvassing area per province in the August 8 election in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said reporters that all ballot boxes from the region's 4,000 precincts would be brought to the canvassing area for counting.

This, he said, would dispel accusations that members of the boards of election inspectors — usually public school teachers — are favoring or are being frightened to favor one candidate or political party.

To avoid allegations that election returns were "pre-filled" or tampered with, all ballots would be distributed during the counting in the center, Abalos added.

The votes would then be tended by district and the certificates of canvass presided over by representatives of the political parties. After this, the regional COC would be finalized.

The Comelec chair said ARMM officials he spoke with during their conference in Cotabato City last Monday wholly agreed to his plan and hoped that the elections would be clean.

CWL to hold special day of recollection

THE CATHOLIC Women's League Philippines Inc. invites everyone to a special day of recollection with Mabel "Bunine Rosting, DCEO, on Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the UP Theatre, Diliman, Quezon City.

The theme of the day will center on "Deepening your Relationship with God through Prayer."

For tickets and other details, please call 924-3726/532-2956.

OPENING TODAY

The Assassination of Richard Nixon

Directed by Niels Mueller
Stars Sean Penn, Naomi Watts, Don Cheadle
Exclusively at Angelika cinemas

[illegible] Dec. 29, 2004 review for the New York Post, "[A Hunter's review: "Decades before 9/11—during the final days of the Nixon administration, before many—a disaffected American man decided to hijack a jetliner and crash it into the White House. He never got anywhere near the President. But his story serves mostly—very loosely—as the basis for 'The Assassination of Richard Nixon.' It features Sean Penn in a resounding portrayal of the would-be hijacker, Samuel Bicke (a salesman). It's another right-on performance by the outspoken actor, going all the way back to Ridley Scott's Jeff Spicoli in 'Fast Times at Ridgemont High' (1982). ... By allowing us to understand his shattered psyche without approving of his actions, Penn may even earn a bit of Hunter-esque sympathy for Bicke and Billy Lennon."

The Evil Dead (Chow Lok Yuen)

Directed by Wai Keung Lau
Stars Derek Tsang, Bobo Chan, Lola Bouvrisak
SCOTT: Reading of eDaily.com wrote this review on the Net: "[The movie] is about a young woman who, along with four idiot friends, searches through a dark and deserted old mountain or park for her missing brother. Nothing at all unexpected happens. There's a whole lot of boring chit-chat, [illegible] unconvincing [illegible] and [illegible] writing. A few [illegible] chilling kill scenes, and a bush story whose you've heard a hundred times before. An odd, deserted [illegible] totally boring role from Hong Kong. [illegible] to avoid pointless [illegible] and every Asian horror import's go to the soundtrack of dull Ska Wing. The Eye' co-rewrite us on experience of In One The Grudge.'"

The Legend of Bhagat Singh

Directed by Rajkumar Santoshi
Stars Ajay Devgan, Sushant Singh, Amrita Rao
Exclusively at Bollywood multiplex

8/6/02's Assembly wrote this Bollywood film review on the list: "Perhaps the best film made on Bhagat Singh... [It] describes each event chronologically and in depth. The film begins with the bodies of Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru being cremated out of jail and burned. The ceremonies are overseen public outrage. Flashback to the younger Singh, who wonders to, voices like the Jallianwala Singh memories and other acts of violence by the British. He grows up, joins the revolutionaries and Chandra Shekhar Azad, [illegible] become leader of the pack. Later, Singh is put off by the nonviolence philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. He is condemned a lot later, and remember. His beliefs and ideologies are published and they spread like wildfire among India's youth. He popularity matches that of Gandhi... a must-see film for lovers of [illegible] actor Ajay Devgan."

Barbie leaves . . . (continued on E1)

[illegible] you're a vegetarian? Criticism. Has spirituality changed your personal life?

It's a major factor in everything that's happening to me. I chant. I [illegible] my relationship to my church—to never God in any way possible. Spirituality has brought back for me a desire to learn, that's why I went back to La Salle, to finish my studies.

Name your influences.

As far as willing songs is concerned, classic Motowners. Sharon Colvin, Stranding Pumpkins. Fiddler's Dram, I remember listening a lot to Queen N' Bones, Aerosmith and Silverado.

Who would you like to work with in future projects?

Rick Rubin.

Did you have formal music lessons?

Music was in the blood, on my mother's side. Both my mom and my grandmother played instruments, though not professionally. I remember tinkering with the piano at home when I was 7 years old. I was 11 when I took formal guitar lessons. At 14, I started writing songs. Although my interest in music waned because I got active in sports during high school in Assumption Bodin, I remember recording the class graduation song.

How did you end up in a rock band?

I had a cool mate in accounting class in college. One day he asked what I was scribbling in my notebook. I told I was writing lyrics. He told me he had a friend in the US who was also into music and writing. Some time was Raymund Gutierrez. Our friendship was first [illegible] songs. 'Mr. Forward Hungry Young Poets.'

Hungry Young Poets was part of the second wave of the local alternative rock scene. What was it like then?

It was great. Recalling names and Cynthia Alexander and Raimundo the first gig was in Freedom Bar in Quezon City. It was such a thrill playing alongside the Eraserheads.

GRAND OPENING TODAY!

MTRCB ▸PG13

OPENS TODAY

MTRCB ▸ R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.

MACABRE TALES FROM THE EAST TOLD FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

OPENS JULY 27

OWEN WILSON VINCE VAUGHN
RACHEL McADAMS

FPJ won, says John O

By Julier Luberg Javellana

A LEADING senatorial candidate from Pampanga Arroyo's 84 coalition mates day and the real winner in the 2004 presidential election was the late Fernando Poe Jr.

Former Sen. John Osmeña held a press conference yesterday to express what he said was the padding of votes in at least 10 regions, including the province of Cebu where Mr. Arroyo won only his closest rival by more than one million votes.

"This is my first press conference since the election and I would like to use this opportunity to open something that I have always thought about in the last year and a half and that is ... that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo lost the 2004 elections because in my opinion the winner in that election by about 500,000 votes was Fernando Poe Jr.," Osmeña said in a press conference at Pesto's hotel.

But Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco immediately assailed as baseless and untrue Osmeña's charges.

"That's a hairy tale. Former Sen. Osmeña is hallucinating. Definitely the President did not lose in Cebu province. Cebu won fair and square. The majority of our people have accepted the President's victory and it is only the opposition which has refused to concede or accept the poll verdict," said Cuenco.

Osmeña was among the 12 senatorial candidates of PDI. He landed 13th and is now contesting the election of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon before the Senate Electoral Tribunal.

Osmeña said he accidentally discovered the padding of the Arroyo's votes when he asked a private research group to study the COCs (certificates of canvass) from the areas where he won "the proof of votes" for his pending electoral protest before the Senate Electoral Tribunal.

Osmeña said the group examined the COCs used in the congressional canvass.

"They identified the areas where there was padding of votes for President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, they identified the areas where the canvass that was underwaters gave [her] more votes than she actually got," Osmeña said.

He identified the areas as the CAR, Ilocandia and Subic in Central Luzon, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Cotabato City, Bicol and Mariano, Region 8 except Southern Samar and Leyte, Zamboanga del Norte and del Sur, Indian Eastern, Caraga and the ARMM. He said those were the areas which he had asked for a recount of votes for his NET protest.

He gave reporters a report titled "Operation Hakbang 2004" which identified the provinces where Mr. Arroyo were said to have padded her votes.

Wanted cop tagged as man on Erap tape

By Marjorie C. Ortiz

THE MASTER of murdered Supreme Court Justice spokesperson Susan Cervantes yesterday pointed to police Supt. Rafael Cardenas as the unidentified lawman talking with deposed President Joseph Estrada in the controversial "Erap tape."

"The voice which I clearly recall is the voice of Cardenas, the murderer of my brother, who remains at large," Lloyd Cervantes said in a press conference at the National Press Club in Manila yesterday.

Cervantes said he was visiting Malacañang Against Crime and Corruption (MACC) founding chair Oscar Jimenez last Friday when he heard the press conference of Arroyo's former security guard Usec "Cheche" Gaspero on television.

When Gaspero played the alleged "Erap tape" compact disc, Cervantes said he recognized the voice of the former president was talking over the other line.

"I would recognize that voice anywhere," Cervantes said, stressing that as the victim's brother, he had taken note of Cardenas's voice when the police official was being interviewed on television some years ago.

BUDGET AIRFARES
COPIERS Rental Available
Sales • Lease • Dealer • Service
COPYTRADE
STAR-600
PRICE: P13 MILLION (NEGOTIABLE)
HAVE A COMPETITIVE EDGE!
VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS and THE WRITING INSTITUTE
IWATA TIME RECORDER
P3,800 - E-2A
P15,900 - BP-900
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER
TOURS 2005
SCANDINAVIA & RUSSIA
DEPARTURE - 09 SEPTEMBER
HOLYLAND - JORDAN - EGYPT
With PETRA & ST. CATHERINE
DEPARTURE - 12 SEPTEMBER
10 OCTOBER
MARIAN EUROPE TOUR
DEPARTURE - 01 OCTOBER
travelplan, inc.
TOEFL
50% OFF
ICSEC
Our Lady of Guadalupe Colleges
Offers the BEST Medical Transcriptions Course in
THE SHORTEST TIME IS 12 months!
THE MOST AFFORDABLE RATE
People's Choice
SUPER BRAND
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2006
SUPER BRAND PLATINUM 2004
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2003
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2002
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2001
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2000
SUPER BRAND GOLD 1999
PILOT
Smooth, full-bodied ink writing for beautiful penmanship
G-2
Retractable BALL POINT PEN
Travel SAFE Travel SURE Travel with US!
$699 SEOUL
$405 SAIGON
RAKSO
Location Location Location
NEW Rada-Regency
P12,788
Nibor Diamond Buying Office of the Philippines
NIBOR
INSTANT CASH FOR DIAMONDS
We'll top all other competitor's offer!!!
DLI GENERICS
Less 20% discount for Senior Citizens
Suggested Retail Price July 12, 2005 • Maka-tipid ng higit sa 50%
Analgesic/Antipyretic
DLI
Leading Brand
Savings
GET INTO A SUSTAINABLE WATER STATION BUSINESS
JOIN THE Aqua Soft
Business Advantage
FOR AS LOW AS P 207,900.00
FULL DOWN PAYMENT OPERATIONAL
AVAILABLE FOR FIRST 10 APPLICANTS
FREE Seminar on Wed. July 27, 2005 at 10:00 AM
For More Details Call
367-7135 / 0916-5766649
LOOK FOR Ms. EVELYN AZARCON
Philippine Exclusive Distributor
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
BL-G2-5
BL-G2-7

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Guico

Thousands protest Gaza pullout plan

KFAR MAIMON, Israel—Tens of thousands of opponents of the Israeli government's plan to pull out of the Gaza Strip were being held back from marching on the territory by a mass of police and soldiers Tuesday.

With the police placed on a high state of alert for the first time since the start of the war in Iraq more than two years ago, security forces were under orders to use extreme measures to prevent protesters from reaching the Kissufim border crossing and forcing their way into the Jewish enclaves.

The mass protest represents one of the last chances of strength by opponents of next month's pullout from Gaza and four small West Bank settlements, a plan which has overcome all parliamentary and legal hurdles.

Public surveys in the 21 Gaza settlements was ended off last week, infuriating the organizers of the mass protest and leading to accusations that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was acting like a dictator.

Organizers of the protest estimated that around 50,000 supporters had assembled in the small town of Kfar Maimon overnight ahead of a march on Kissufim although police at the scene put the numbers at no more than 20,000.

Most of the protesters spent the night camped out in a giant car park, where the atmosphere was largely genial.

The red alert status, however, reflected fears that events could spiral out of control. At one point, dozens of settlers surrounded several border police jeeps and urged the occupants to refuse to obey orders.

They danced around the vehicles and tied orange ribbons to them, the color that has come to symbolize the campaign against the evacuation from Gaza.

Gideon Ezra, the minister for internal security, said there was no question of lowering the defenses nor to allow the protesters into Gaza.

"The issue that most concerns us, is that we see to it that no one will reach the main Gaza settlement bloc Gush Katif. That is the goal," he told journalists.

Within Hebrewism, one of the main settler leaders, countered that the authorities would not be able to prevent people from entering the territory.

An open letter edited by those gathered in Kfar Maimon.

"We will fight for our liberties. It is unthinkable that we should give up Gush Katif without anything in return," said Rebecca, an American-born Israeli.

"It is absurd to give the army the evacuation role when it is supposed to be defending the country against the enemy," she said.

The ultra-nationalist MK Ito Arad, filed a petition at the supreme court to protest the decision to deploy soldiers as well as police in the stand-off with the demonstrators at Kfar Maimon.

"This is an intolerable scenario. Human a punishing, and has only an essential loss here," said Arad. AFP

Iraq rebels attack anew; 15 killed

BAGHDAD—Thirteen Iraqi workers were killed in a fresh ambush on Tuesday as insurgents attacked on signs of a tit-up while President Jalal Talabani signaled that a new constitution could be ready ahead of time.

A total of 35 people were killed in attacks by rebels, including the 13 slain when insurgents opened fire on a bus carrying workers at a US army base outside Baquba, a restive town northwest of Baghdad.

Insurgents have stepped up their attacks in the last few weeks, with more than 140 killed and scores other wounded in a bombing frenzy in the last five days alone.

Talabani, the first Kurdish head of state in an Arab country, said that drafting of the new constitution was almost finalized and the document could be ready by the end of July, ahead of the Aug. 15 deadline.

In the deadliest attack on Sunday 10 workers were killed when their bus came under heavy gunfire from attackers near Baquba, an interior ministry official said. Another three civilians died when the bus driver lost control of his vehicle and crashed into a passing car.

Another two people were killed and four others wounded when a bomb planted near the by a roadside bomb in the northern of center of Kirkuk, police said.

One of the dead was a policeman, while the other was a member of Iraqiyah Turkmen Union of Iraqi Turkmen (IRIU).

The deadliest attack of recent days was on Saturday in the town of Al-Mahaqeeb south of Baghdad when a suicide bomber blew up a fuel tanker killing 30 people and wounding 131.

US Joint Chiefs of Staff Chief General Richard Myers warned of more bloodshed as Iraq prepares for elections later this year.

"Clearly there is going to be more violence ahead because there are people who don't want progress to happen," he said.

Retired US general Barry McCaffrey, meanwhile, told the Senate foreign relations committee that rebel attacks would peak in six months and US troops could begin withdrawing in a year.

Against the bloody backdrop, a deputy meeting on the sidelines of the Dead Sea in Jordan saw the World Bank promise $500 million loan to Iraq, its first since 1973. AFP

Pakistan captures 5 Taliban leaders

PESHAWAR—Pakistani intelligence agents have arrested five senior Taliban leaders, including a deputy to fugitive Taliban chief Mullah Mohammed Omar, two security officials said.

The arrests were made on Monday after security agents raided several homes in north-western Pakistan, said the most senior of the two intelligence officials who was involved in interrogating the suspects. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to reporters.

The officials identified two of the captured men as Mullah Abdul Qudoos, a deputy to Omar and formerly chair of the Taliban Special Council, and Abdul Rahiq, a former governor in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province.

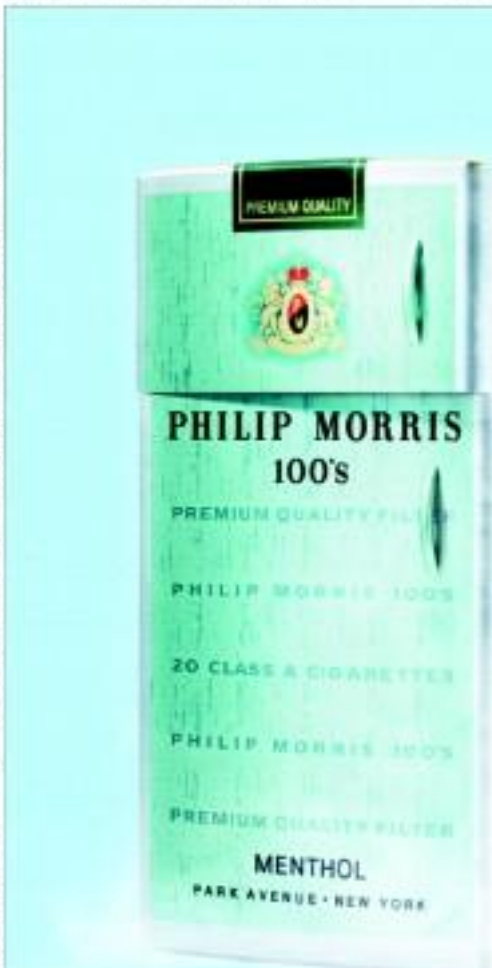
They would not disclose the names of the remaining three leaders, but one official said "they are also important Taliban leaders who are in our custody and being interrogated in Pakistan."

No government officials were available to confirm the arrests.

Pakistan, a key ally in the US-led war on terror, has arrested more than 700 Taliban and al-Qaeda members, including high-level operatives, since the hard-line Taliban was ousted from power in Afghanistan in 2001 for sheltering Osama bin Laden.

But Laden and Omar have so far eluded capture, but US and Afghan officials believe they are hiding out in Pakistan's rugged tribal belt on the border with Afghanistan.

Pakistan has deployed more than 70,000 troops in that region to flush out remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaeda. AP



Government Warning
is dangerous

...ish capital prime, thousands of Israeli supporters of the Jewish settlements ...ement gather during a demonstration near Madrid, southern Israel, July 30. ...

Britain to pass new antiterror law

LONDON—Britain's interior minister moved a step closer Monday to enacting tough new antiterrorism laws by December after he won "broad support" from the opposition parties in the wake of the London bombings.

The news came as the death toll from the country's worst terror attack rose by one to 56, and as a report linked Britain's support of the Iraq war to the July 7 attacking turning up the heat on Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Home Secretary Charles Clarke said he and his counterparts in the main opposition Conservative and smaller Liberal Democrat parties agreed in principle to cooperate on the draft legislation following hour-long talks.

"We believe that is the right way to go and we believe that it will enable us to address the threat we face with a unity and determination which is critical," Clarke, flanked by David Davis of the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrat Mark Oaten, told reporters.

The bill is expected to be put before lawmakers in October when parliament reopens after its summer recess and become law by December.

The interior minister's news to opposition parties Friday outlining plans for the bill that would outlaw the indirect incitement of terrorism, for example preachers who praise suicide bombers or describe them as martyrs.

Tougher new laws seem likely to win widespread support among a public still reeling from the twin shock of the suicide bombings coupled with the discovery the attackers were homegrown.

Asked how confident he was that the bill would survive parliamentary scrutiny, Clarke said: "Very confident. The broad support for where we are is very strong." He also said that the government was ready to consider even tighter legislation if the security services deem such a move desirable, but he stated that police for the time being were concentrating on unraveling the London bombings.

Away from the legislative debate, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, known as Chatham House, concluded in a report that the war in Iraq gave a "boost" to al-Qaida and rendered Britain especially vulnerable to attacks—a theory contrary to Blair's belief that there is no link with the bombings.

"There is no doubt that the situation new Iraq has imposed particular difficulties for the UK and for the wider coalition against terrorism," said the London-based research center in its study "Riding Pillion for Tackling Terrorism is a High-risk Policy."

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw however denied the allegation that London's part in the US-led, March 2003 invasion made it more vulnerable. "I've explained that Chatham House's basic saying that we should not have moral shudder to shoulder with our long-standing allies in the United States," Straw said on a visit to a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels.

Chatham House also heavily criticized the British government's communications strategy, accusing it of 'speaking shoulder to shoulder with the US as a back-seat passenger rather than an equal decision-maker.'

In this charge, Blair's official spokesperson said both London and Washington simply had "different perceptions" of the terrorist threat.

Meanwhile, the massive police investigation into the blasts on three London Underground trains and a bus rumbled on. AFP

IT'S FREEZING.

Philip Morris 100's. Premium Taste in Menthol.

g: Cigarette smoking
to your health

Vietnam war vet Westmoreland dies at 91

WASHINGTON—Gen. William Westmoreland, the highly decorated former commander of US forces in Vietnam whose name became synonymous with the US military debacle in Southeast Asia, died late Monday at a retirement home in Charleston, South Carolina. He was 91.

Westmoreland, a veteran of three wars and recipient of three dozen military decorations during his career, commanded US forces in Vietnam from 1964-68, a critical period in the conflict.

WESTMORELAND

Chief architect of the "war of attrition" strategy he soon home from Southeast Asia to find himself shouldered with macabre body counts and seemingly endless requests for more GI troops.

He maintained to decades following the US withdrawal from Vietnam in 1975 that the war had not been a failure and that history would vindicate the US military involvement there. He blamed the war's worst follies on President Lyndon Johnson, charging in his memoir "War in Vietnam" that the Democratic president—insecure and too eager to please—refused to make the tough choices Westmoreland advocated.

In that memoir, Westmoreland lashed out at critics and blamed the ultimate US and South Vietnamese military defeat on "politicians and pulpiteers" in Washington "who forced us to fight with one hand." The four-star general said the conflict might have ended in US victory had Johnson not "listened to too much faulty advice" and ignored his calls to step up bombing of North Vietnam and invade Cambodia and Laos.

"Washington timidity was an outgrowth of the advice of well-intentioned but naive officials and of his efforts as a president to politically astricted that he tried to please everybody rather than like the bolder and make the hard decisions," Westmoreland wrote.

He died on a full-hard measure. AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

Al-Qaida suspect freed

MUNICH, Germany—A suspected al-Qaida member was freed from prison in Germany on Monday after the country's highest court blocked his extradition to Spain, dealing a new blow to German antiterror efforts. The federal constitutional court ruled that handing over Syrian-German businessman Mamoun Darkazanli to Spain on a new EU arrest warrant would violate Germany's basic law. Darkazanli, 46, was released from custody in Hamburg the court later and directed him a ban without surrendering. Spanish accuses him of being Osama bin Laden's "permanent representative and assistant" in Europe and having provided his al-Qaida network with logistical and financial support between 1999 and 2001. AP

China evacuates 600,000

BEIJING—China evacuated over 600,000 people from coastal areas on Monday after typhoon Dujuan slammed into Taiwan, killing up to four people, injuring 35 and forcing offices, schools and markets to shut across the island. At 1100 GMT, Dujuan was packing maximum winds of 144 km/h (89 mph), down from a previous 194 km/h, and gusts of up to 180 km/h, weaker than the earlier 252 km/h, said Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau. If the typhoon stays on its present course, it will hit China's southern province of Fujian this afternoon. "Based on our current forecast data, it should make landfall in mainland China around 7 p.m. tomorrow," said Daniel Wu, director of the bureau's forecasting section. Reuters

US bomber gets life term

RIVERDALE, Ga.—Standing trial for bad "bad Dr. Jude," convicted Olympic bomber Eric Rudolph was sentenced to life in prison without parole on Monday for the 1998 bombing of an abortion clinic that fatally killed a police officer and injured a nurse. The 38-year-old ardent foe who evaded capture by federal agents for five years, stood defiant in a federal courtroom in Birmingham, Alabama, as US District Judge Lynwood Smith sentenced him to two consecutive life terms without parole for bombing the Otto Planned Parenthood clinic in the city. "Not guilty, a prison cell for a lifetime, I know I have fought the good fight," Rudolph, clad in a dark orange prison suit, told the court. "I have kept the faith." Reuters

INQUIRER

OPINION

Publisher Isaac Tarriela
Editor-in-Chief Letty Jimena Magsanoc
Managing Editor Joe Ma. D. Nolasco
Associate Editor Rolando G. Estayan
Associate Editor for Special Projects Nestor U. Corrales
News Editor Antonio T. Enriquez Jr. / Chief News Copy Desk Head Ma. D. Nolasco
Opinion Editor Lorna V. Kapunan
Associate Editor Francisco R. Rodriguez Jr.
City Editor Dino Lazo
Associate Editor Jose V. Sandoval Jr.
Editorial Consultant Eleanor Dionisio
Office Manager for Circulation Edna U. Gamboa
Art & Design Director Loren A. Velasco

Board of Chairman Marixi R. Prieto
President Alexandre Prieto-Romualdez
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Rosario R. Romero
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services Oscar R. Orbos
Office Administrator Teofe D. Duarte
Advertising Director Lucio P. Lacsamana

All rights reserved. Except as provided by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any manner or form or stored in a database or retrieval system without prior written permission.

Get it right

EDITORIALS

THIS week, by its own admission, media a make-or-break period for the political opposition in crafting credible articles of impeachment. It also marks a period of preparation for the majority coalition in Congress to determine in what manner it will handle the charges. After erring in impeach Presidents Quirino, Macapagal and Marcos, more generous rules in the present Constitution finally made the trial of Joseph Estrada in the Senate possible. However that exercise was, at best, half-baked.

This time around, no side can claim ignorance. There are clear lessons from the past impeachment effort. On the part of the House of Representatives, the lesson are that all her charges are not the way to go, and that the prosecution cannot afford to appear bumbling and unresearch. On the part of the Senate and the defense, the profoundly political nature of impeachment came as a shock to both defense lawyers and the senators, unaccustomed to their more serious role as jurors (in a country that doesn't have a jury system except for impeachment), and more interested in being judges, in an exercise in which the entire nation decided to be jurors, too. The biggest demonstration of the flawed understanding our senators possessed at the time, was the question of the second articles.

The senators were keener on being judges rather than jurors. Instead of referring the matter to the only active judge among them, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., they decided to threaten out the question as a matter of political muscle. The disastrous consequences showed that the senators who triumphed on a minor point possessed a lack of understanding of the fine balance between fair play and politics required of them at the time. It was sheer sighted law, and self-defeating politics.

In no small part due to the diminished intellectual caliber of the present Senate, its handling of an impeachment trial could lead to a more pleasant silence on the part of many of them, or even more vicious snarling and glaring. The fear of public revulsion is being put forward as an argument for exporting sobriety from our senators. We wonder how such an expectation can be put forward after seeing the recent Senate hearings on justice.

The overwhelming majority, we believe, have demonstrated a preference for constitutionally ordained procedures to prevail. There can be no finer demonstration of how deeply Filipinos have imbibed the democratic way of life. The problem is that in a political culture where self-restraint is a vanishing virtue, our elected representatives from both Houses of Congress aren't exactly known for understanding the term. And we, despite all the skepticism and criticism they regularly face, an impeachment is really our representatives' finest moment: an entire society trusts them to do what is right, in the right way, despite every reason to assume the contrary.

And so we remind Congress: Even heroes can be heroes. Let us see heroes, he cries.

Gambit

YESTERDAY the President suddenly sent a letter to the bishops, saying she was open to having some sort of fact-finding commission. This, after she already set up the entire political establishment to fight it out to an impeachment.

So what will it be? Does the President suspect she can not successfully fend off an impeachment, so now, she wants to buy time by creating a commission whose mandate is real clearly spelled out, and whose composition is still up in the air? The sincerity of this letter is beside the point; for it has introduced incredibly into a situation that was, only now, showing signs of a predictable method for resolving it.

The commission idea was floated as a means to stave off a worsening crisis. However, the crisis is here, and not least because of the President's refusal to take an active part in clearing her name through such a body. When she herself managed to control the situation by arguing for impeachment, here she comes now piously pleading for a commission. Where was she when the idea made the most sense?

Now the country faces the possibilities of two bodies—the Senate and a yet-to-be constituted body—determining the same things. Divide and conquer?

The best, fastest way to end the crisis

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THERE is a better way than resignation, impeachment or a Truth Commission to end the current crisis gripping the nation. Resignation under pressure may be unfair to the President. Impeachment is not decided on the basis of truth and justice but by politics. And a Truth Commission, no matter who its members are, may not be credible to all, besides being dangerous and expensive.

For example, if the commission finds President Macapagal-Arroyo innocent of cheating, there will be people, especially the opposition, who will say, "It's a whitewash." The findings will not end the crisis. On the contrary, they will exacerbate it, in the same way that the proclamation of GMA by a partisan Congress only made the crisis worse because of charges of "Garci-ngasan."

The best, fastest, and most accurate way I have already stated twice before, but I will say it again, because the election remains for the presidential candidates. The Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) will open the election recanvass for the presidential candidates because of the poll protest filed opposition Sen. Loi Estrada against Vice President Noli de Castro. On the same electoral returns are written the votes for the presidential candidates. It would take no more than a few seconds to look at the votes of the top presidential candidates.

This is what a Truth Commission will ultimately do, anyway, except that the PET, being composed of Supreme Court justices, will be more credible. Besides, the latter would be faster and cheaper. A Truth Commission will have to hire a staff and rent and equip an office. Congress will have to pass a law covering the commission to give it legal authority—and you know how slow Congress is. The PET is already down with a functioning office and staff and the PET justices, unlike Legarda.

Legarda and Presidential Adviser for Political Affairs Gabby Claudio and Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo were the guests at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila and I asked them if the proposal was acceptable to them. They had no objections—if PET rules it's all right.

I don't see why not, if both sides, GMA and the opposition, will join in petition to the PET to recount the electoral returns in order to end the national crisis. The opposition has been clamoring for that since the canvassing at the room by Congress. And if GMA did not insist on the clause, she should be eager to cross any doubt to her legitimacy.

There will be lawyers who will argue that it cannot be done because of technicalities. But there is a legal principle that says technicality is subservient to substance. It is in the public interest that acceptance of cheating be erased and end the crisis. Technicality should be subject to that.

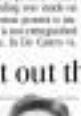
Besides, the PET is composed of justices of the Supreme Court, which is the ultimate in wrangling over rules and technicalities. They can make rules, as can other tribunals. The Court has many times changed rules and decisions in the interest of justice. I don't see why it cannot do the same thing to solve the crisis that is ripping the nation apart.

I have also said that I presumed the petition of Vice President Noli de Castro for the dead husband, Fernando Poe Jr., in his election protest against GMA. She is many provisions dismissed by the Supreme Court on election protests where one of the parties died. Nothing can be done to the appreciation that an election protest is an interest with public interest and is not extinguished when one of the parties dies. In De Castro vs.

The truth isn't out there

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



I WISH people by two names in the newspaper the other day. The first one read the perspective bishops, or those who were actively espousing GMA resignation, were much influenced by Pope Benedict XVI's admonition to them to steer clear from political activity. His message apparently was transmitted by Apostolic Nuncio Antonio Franco who said, "What Rome wants is for the clergy never get involved or drawn politics and always be above politics, so we remind you—family-specific or political issues, we are reminded that it's not our role."

The second time said the bishops deemed the forming of a Truth Commission to determine if GMA really cheated in the elections to be futile since the issue could not be proven in the hearings. The Truth Commission will lay the groundwork for an impeachment process," Archbishop Bernardo Antonio, CBCP secretary general, said. The CBCP would had rather the President herself initiate the process to reexamine the authenticity of the so-called tapes, verify any possible breach of public trust, and move on due punishment on all those involved guilty."

Either the bishops have been poisoned by the Holy Spirit and are speaking obscurely in tongues of fire or they have been seized by the spirit of the numbness of thinked they are speaking incoherently. I myself have no problem picking the second.

The first point, Joseph Ratzinger, the Benedict XVI, former Nazi Youth, is not the best person to be giving clergy advice on not interfering in politics. Truly, what a sleep group it's been from Pope John Paul II to this one. The previous Pope turned out to be an anti-Semite above other pacts, secular and religious leaders alike, for one thing, which was that he was big on ecumenism. Another not just in the religious sense but in all the senses of the word. One monumental sense of it being fighting what was genuinely profoundly evil, such as George W. Bush including Iraq, which he condemned alone in every sense.

Some things are inherently not with quiescence of good and evil in their every pore. The

Continued on Sheenian, the Court ruled: "The death of the protestant, as in this case, neither constitutes nor warrants the dismissal of the case. ... we can see the real court of its jurisdiction to decide the election contest."

In its 1997 decision, the Court said that "determination of what constitutes loss in fair votes entitled to a protestee's challenge in the election, otherwise public policy demands that an election contest, duly commenced, be not abated by the death of the contestant. ... It is true that a public officer is presumed to the public officers and is not a property transmissible to his heirs upon death. But, an election protest is not purely personal and inclusive to the protestant or to the protestee such that the death of either would oust the court of all authority to continue the protest proceedings.

"An election contest, after all, involves not merely conflicting private aspirations but is imbued with paramount public interests. As we have held, in the case of Nitz. De Rivera v. Hontiveros:

"xxx. It is axiomatic that an election contest involving as it does not only the adjudication and settlement of the private interests of the rival candidates but also the paramount need of dispelling once and for all the uncertainty that hovers over the title to the contested office and thereby restore the tranquility essential for the proper functioning of the government. The law requires a candidate who feels that he has been deprived of the office he is entitled to by the will of the electorate within three (30) days after proclamation of the results of the election to contest the election by filing a petition for quo warranto with the proper court. This is so because the people have the right to know, at the earliest possible time, who are the persons chosen by the majority to govern and conduct the affairs of the government. Consequently, the candidate who has the highest number of votes is entitled to the benefits of the office even pending the decision of an election protest that may be filed against him. Furthermore, the purpose of the election protest is to prevent the assumption to office of a person who is not entitled thereto, and to afford relief to the rightful claimant to the office. Thus, the protestee who is declared winner provisionally by the proclamation of the board of canvassers is entitled to the benefits of the office pending the decision of the election protest. Should he be ousted therefrom, he would be entitled to the emoluments of the office during the time he was in possession thereof. Otherwise, he would be unjustly enriched at the expense of the rightful claimant. Should the protestee die before the decision of the election protest, his heirs are entitled to the emoluments of the office during the time he was in possession thereof. Otherwise, they would be unjustly enriched at the expense of the rightful claimant. Should the protestee die before the decision of the election protest, his heirs are entitled to the emoluments of the office during the time he was in possession thereof. Otherwise, they would be unjustly enriched at the expense of the rightful claimant.

The whole idea of a Truth Commission that will investigate whether GMA did wrong or not is not unlike somebody's master where a husband is discovered by his wife in bed with another woman and the conversation takes place. "Honey, who was that other lady in bed with me?" Husband: "I can explain, this is not how it looks." Wife: "So what is she doing here?" Husband: "I brought her home because it was late and raining and somehow we fell asleep." Wife: "Did you have sex with her?" Husband: "Because her clothes were soaked with rain and I took them off to dry." Wife: "Why were you naked beside her?" Husband: "Because she was shivering from the cold and I was keeping her warm by holding me and body against hers." Wife: "Why were you both moaning and groaning?" Husband: "That was the washboard, not, it was the wind we were hearing."

In this point, the husband's cheek comes in and he says to the wife that she is crazy, that she or the manager sound to find out the truth minus the names. At this point also, the husband is beating his wife (while putting on his pants) by battering malicious thoughts. And the wife is screaming in her husband (while also putting on her clothes) to get out the night's "Sorry, sorry I interrupted you dear."

But let just that is the exact parallel of the Wife, Estrada episode and the running cuffs for a Truth Commission. Even the last part. As the end is a Truth Commission, we are all bound to say sorry to GMA for disturbing her. The whole deal is that insanely funny.

Also in God's name (which isn't Benedict) where the bishops in middle in politics? Who names the bishops to an oft who should govern the flock and not the pastors or the medical vicars should be? All we want is for them to see right and wrong. They cannot see when a mistaken second wrong has been done, they have no right to keep their flock, their movements from their pastors. The bishops cannot be a shield for a mistake that in fact does not see rights for the bishops, they should let us PE.

Truth Commission? The truth isn't out there, it's just plain out.

Confession of weakness

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE STATEMENT last July 26 of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines is a remarkably evident and delicately fashioned document that put the Catholic Church in the Philippines at the fulcrum of contending demands arising from the current political turmoil.

The bishops' would-be presidential role in a time of uprisings can be found in paragraph 7 which says: "We declare our prayerfully deserved collective decision that we do not demand for resignation." They followed this with the contentious clue said, "Yet, neither do we encourage her supply in clinging to power that no one wants."

The statement moved the Church close to what the bishops called "the realm of conflicting opinions and positions." It said the bishops' role "is not to point out a specific political option or a specific person to be elected." The statement said: "It is what its opinion might be grounded (merely) on speculative and highly controversial bases, as "Divided they" in the present situation, we believe that no single concrete option regarding the political future of the country is definitive to be the only one demanded by the Gospel."

In spurning the calls for resignation, the bishops did not "fold to the pressure from the streets buoying for the head of the President, on the basis of reports of opinion polls that show a majority think that the allegedly deceived in the 2004 election. This statement urges a conspiracy approach to the contents of the tapes that have fueled the resignation demand—to opinion that "maybe he genuinely wants to do something and highly compromisable basis." Unlike the herd that "jumps to the streets, after making rash judgements on the basis of evidence provided by the tapes, the bishops preferred to take a more prudent course.

As subsequent developments show, the bishops' cautious approach mirrored the de facto situation developing in the streets from developing into a lynching or a mob. Same not unlike the one launched in the United States by Joseph McCarthy that smeared many people, including innocent, to make a case that there was "massive" conspiracy and the country was in danger. Without evidence, but with "circumstantial evidence" used to prove that showing was undoubted of such a scale that could have significantly changed the outcome.

Did the statement conclude a moral judgment of right or wrong on a particular point, it has no far-flung implications beyond him. In other words, the bishops' statement is undefined, so one has the right to make a new interpretation of its weighing incredible effect or loss of moral authority.

As an average person without any inclination to follow a superior moral standard of purity, one is encouraged in the wide debate over the close democracy and corruption in public office. But we are afraid of and repelled by the notion that democratic evidence as the foundation of justice and history. We are afraid of the notion that the rule of judgments are built on trouble-hunting. Even in reformatory Fenner, the Iraq, the Queen and several revolutionary leaders were tried in tribunals of the Committee of Public Safety before they mounted the guillotine and beheaded.

The bishops' use these dangers when they decided to reject suspension in the mode of choosing political leadership. They declared that while they "recognized non-violent appeals for last resort" they "do not support any appeal to violence, be it a Youth Generation and the filing of an impeachment case are per opinion to the Gospel."

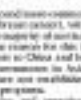
Since the outbreak of the crisis, I have insisted and argued that the accusations against the President are an important issue that must be resolved, but it is the lustre legal process that can clear the air to finish this crisis.

Also I feel to be trampled by intrusion. In the streets, you're not a chance to defend yourself from a lynch mob bent on flustering you with the arrant relish of hysteria whipped up by the crazed demagogues and a frenzied, vicious opposition press.

The vengeance demand is arbitrary and time story. Because of this, it is an implicit confession on the part of those reacting to the streets that they have a weak case.

Getting to know HPV

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

BOTH ICSAHILD.—Let me introduce you to HPV, what some doctors call the human papilloma virus.

HPV is not "enormously common infection," says Dr. Lenny Bosch, chief of epidemiology of the Catholic Cancer Institute of Minnesota, who is one of the pioneering researchers in the world to establish the link between HPV infection and cervical cancer. "There is almost universal exposure to HPV... any sexually active woman will encounter the virus in her lifetime."

Actually, HPV is not a family or clan of viruses but a single virus. There are more than 100 types, and among these, several have been identified as "oncogenic" (cancer-causing), though not equally so. Some HPV types cause genital warts, the kind of cervical cancer cases. Most people would be more familiar with HPV through, as among warts, which can be found in different parts of the body, including the genitals. Two other types of HPV have been identified as "nononcogenic," that is, causing no immune response, but they also appear much to current research and clinical trials being undertaken to develop a vaccine.

The HPV which has been identified each 10 to 100 percent of all cervical cancer cases, is the "most common sexually transmitted infection reported in the world," said Dr. Bosch. As such, knowing when exposed is, having devised several tests to detect it, and now with a vaccine being developed that would, it is hoped, eradicate it, cervical cancer can also be eradicated or reduced.

We became cured over the from the disease. But as clinicians, epidemiologists, medical specialists and public health authorities have stressed, it is not the science behind cervical cancer that prevents the crafting of effective responses. Rather, it is the lack of awareness among the people, and what is at the indifference of health authorities, that prevents governments from saving the lives of hundreds of thousands of women worldwide each year.

AT THE OPENING session of the "Inaugural Scientific Meeting" of the newly-organized Asia Oceania research organization on Gynecological Infections and Neoplasia or AOGIN, speakers quickly justified the need for such a region-al organization.

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in the world (after breast cancer), with Asia contributing "the vast majority of new local cancer incidences." The reasons for this are not just because Asia is home to China and India, but also because governments in Asia, such a few exceptions, have not established cancer-detection screening programs.

The adoption of massive and organized screening programs is the primary reason the rates of such infections in the developed world have fallen so sharply. In fact, in the developed world, the cervical cancer (and) treated effective to adopt HPV DNA testing as the primary means of screening, and whether it could be "wise" to start screening women in their 20s (since HPV is a sexually transmitted) when it's older women, pass the age of 35, who are more vulnerable to cervical cancer.

THE FRAGILE (some may) return is that, in current realm, HPV is an extremely common infection. Andrews it causing women more pressure for HPV 16 or 18, but anyone cannot have a good chance of getting rid of the infection. It's when HPV infection persists that it can cause cancer. This is why, from a public health standpoint, screening is recommended for sixty women.

Though HPV DNA tests conducted by Hapsat, one of the sponsors of the conference) are available in the market, its main drawback is price—about P2,000 per test. In the developed world, the most common screening procedure adopted is the "pap smear," which involves collecting a sample of tissue from a woman's cervix, then examining the sample under a microscope to look for "abnormal" cells that even the "pap," which is available more cost-effective for P400 and in public health centers for as low as P50, but presents the less expensive for a mass screening program in developing countries, including the Philippines.

IN FREE presentation, Dr. Gerard Manuel Gonzales presented the findings of a study on risk factors for cervical cancer in the country.

Factors for increased risk of cervical cancer were, quite predictably, multiple sexual partners, a number of sexual partners and high parity (a frequent pregnancies and births). A woman's risk is decreased when she has had a history of pap smears, because with cervical cancer in the Philippines not often associated with sexual intercourse, it is the fact that more than two-thirds of our cases are diagnosed late."

While the "pap smear" is the most state-of-the-art cancer-screening method, said Dr. Gonzales, many factors—cost (economics) among them—put it out of the reach of many women, especially lab personnel and pathologists, and inadequate health infrastructure—mandate against adopting the "pap" as the primary screening method for the Philippines.

Instead with identifying "a more approach that is feasible, cost-effective and applicable," a panel headed by Dr. Gonzales recommended the adoption of "acetic acid visual visualization method," which relies on visually spotting precancerous lesions, to be trained nurses and midwives in the rural areas and assigned to provincial or regional hospitals for subsequent (which states a closer examination of the cervix possible) or possible biopsy by a more exact diagnosis. Also, a pilot program planned for Cebu and other areas, and the use of the Philippine women's cytology test, if not more, vulnerable to dying from cervical cancer in ours.

Little known details about an old story

LOOKING BACK

Anthony R. Chavez Jr.

"EDITED AT 1 AM" showed the Philippine Board of Books for Young People at the Cultural Center on the theme "Meeting Mayhem in Bandungan in Manila." Over dal, we used Encanto home to see that the cheese was rather in for a bonanza when cancer was made on the tile and seeds of Jose Rizal. Meanwhile, the bakery enjoyed the retelling of the story of the seeds and the drama that we all knew as well. This was a recipe for cheese, so I was tempted to give the cheese some cancer by embarking on a broadcast on the underwriting boards that we all knew as well. Jose Rizal and his Oedipus complex. How else the cancer would cancer have caused the cancerous intestines, but THEY was not the proper forum for an exploration into Rizal's inner brain and thesis.

Reviewing BOOKS—not reviews of this—I'd use to know more about Rizal's inner brain and thesis. I would be interesting revealed some details that are often overlooked. While the seeds and the theme is a story of Filipino, those quite well, it is usually useful to someone else rather than through the eyes of our hero as he. Jose Rizal as his personal diary was taken by the Jose 1960's. Rizal was strong with his mother by a table diary. In by a second of long. She was coaching him to send money back to Spain. Specifically, he needed "El Amigo de los Niños" (The Children's Friend). The book was and the second book by Rizal's friend, Dr. Pedro Paterno. Rizal was called "Pedrito" by Paterno. Rizal was called "Pedrito" by Paterno. Rizal was called "Pedrito" by

ATTENTION LAWYERS

University of the Philippines Law Center
INSTITUTE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (MCLE)
COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR LAWYERS
ONE-WEEK COURSE (36 UNITS)

Non-Compliance or Non-Compliance with the 36-unit MCLE Requirement during the 1st Compliance Period which ended on 31 December 2001 would mean being listed as a delinquent member of the IBP and will not be permitted to practice law until such time an adequate proof of Compliance is rendered by the Supreme Court MCLE Governing Board. *LAWYERS BUT ALSO, OF U.P. LAW CENTER'S MCLE ONE WEEK COURSE (36 UNITS) on JULY 30-31, 2005 AT THE LECTURE HALL, THIRD FLOOR, ROXAS HALL, U.P. LAW CENTER*

DATE	SUBJECT	CREDIT HOURS	LECTURERS
30 July	Legal Methods in Legal Ethics	Three (3) Credit Units	Justice Artemio V. Panganiban
	Pre-Trial and Trial Techniques	Three (3) Credit Units	Justice Edgardo A. Camello
	Sex Trial and Trial Skills		
30 July	Duties of the Lawyer to the Client; Legal Ethics	Three (3) Credit Units	Dean Cesario A. Majaro
	Recent Developments in Intellectual Property Law	Three (3) Credit Units	Atty. Ricardo Galvez Tamayo
	(Brief Presentation)		
31 July	Arbitration and Corporate Rehabilitation; Succession Law	Three (3) Credit Units	Hon. Rebecca Fajardo
	The Art of Direct and Cross Examination (Trial Advocacy)	Two (2) Credit Units	Justice Godofredo B. Tacoda
	Commercial Laws of Importance Practice in Legal Writing	Two (2) Credit Units	Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez
13 Aug.	Bill of Rights; Right of Privacy (Constitutional Law)	Three (3) Credit Units	Prof. Pacifico A. Agabin
	Justice in Civil Law (Succession Law)	Three (3) Credit Units	Prof. Perfecto V. Fabricante
	Trends and Developments in Criminal Law	Three (3) Credit Units	Dean Raul C. Pangalangan
14 Aug.	Recent Developments in Taxation Law	Three (3) Credit Units	Prof. Ruben C. Sarmiento
	(MCLE Presentation)		
	Probate Proceedings (Jurisdiction; Venue; Allowance of Will; Settlement of Estate; Liquidation; Distribution; Appeal to the Court of Appeals) (Special Proceedings)	Two (2) Credit Units	Hon. Alicia M. Magsalin
	Court Annexed and Court Referred Mediation (ADR)	Three (3) Credit Units	Prof. Ma. Milagros T. Cielo

- Solicitation not subject to change without prior notice. Kindly confirm lectures and schedules prior to registration and attendance.
- MCLE PROGRAM FEE: Php 6,000 payable to "U.P. Law Center" (Nonrefundable) or Mastercard/Visa. For Non-U.P. Graduates, Lecture Materials, MCLE Accredited Certificates of Attendance, Transcripts of Records & Certificates Please Send Requirements Request to the MCLE Office (Only for those finishing all the Courses).
- FOR INFORMATION: ROXAS HALL 3RD FLOOR, DILIMAN, U.P.C. 1101 TEL. 920-1001

Can't we just focus on nation-building?

LETTERS

(EDITED) Let please join focus on the business of nation-building? Mapapatol sa sentimyento Presidente—who do you have in mind as a replacement anyway?

I am not a Gloria Arroyo fan. But when the woman needs a multibillion-peso help in meeting the country's debt we must some palpable sense of well-being. At those synchronicities orientation should stop casting stones—we are quite incomprehensible considering the pride we all have in our thoroughly Christian country, especially as they how to use. Isaac's rule the gift hereof. And at least the moment has the decency to bear her head in penance—unlike the terrible "Iron Maiden" who remains arrogant to his ignorance to this day. Now, please—she needs to get back to work!

To our politicians, the whole world

[illegible] do.

People protest, as you have defined it, has grown lame: it no longer stirs the latent passion in me. And the guilt about hurting the country is draining away too, whenever I hear of still another move, now that demands a change in our lead players—from just a change in the cluster of our national army.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas? How can I say that with conviction when I can see is slowly dying in the hands of those who do not learn their lessons well?

—MATEO ALBERTO,
Los Angeles, CA,
mateo99@aol.yahoo.com

Manila is not the Philippines

THE JULY 7 issue of the Inquirer showed a colored illustration depicting President Macapagal-Arroyo. It was accompanied by a crowd with placards demanding as follows: "Sorry Gloria ako ha," "Vote Provident, Resign," "We Want Gloria Out," "Vote Gloria Vote".

A question may be asked: Since when did Manila become the Philippines? Surely, the Philippines is not Metro Manila.

In yesterday's TV show, the Cojuangco and Aquino supporters in QMA that the transfer Manila-bang to Cebu or Iloilo. They slapped their hands to signify their approval of the suggestion.

I was probably told that the crowd at the anti-EDSA rally was just to the opposition. To me, as a simple and humble citizen, it is all right if the people government gathering in the exercise of their constitutional rights, but not if they are just made tools by selfish politicians who are hungry for power.

—RICARDO E. TILLE, 6 Ranik Lot St., Angeles Hill., Balon, Las Piñas City

Political Church

THE PHILIPPINES is fast emerging among the most corrupt countries in the world. Thanks to the Catholic Church in the Philippines, which has forgotten its spiritual duty to the nation when it engaged full time in politics after the fall of the dictator Marcos!

Corruption, which is the root of all evil, is astonishing that can be traced to the loss of a person. Instead of ministering to uphold the moral standards of the Filipino people, what has the Church done? Elect homily in the Philippines is now tinged with political color, instead of instilling Christian discipline and teaching the lawful how to be good persons and how to love their fellowmen.

Start with the family if we are to stamp out corruption, if each member of the family would be able to learn to "internalize" which would strengthen each member to stay away from the temptations of an easy life, then we might yet be able to root out this problem, which is eating up the very basis of our society.

—PERCIVAL CALMES,
calmesp@sabiphils.net

The forgotten side of Senator Pimentel

CONSIDER de Quiros empowerment to accuse him. Aquilino Pimentel of losing moral ground by associating with Persidente Estrada and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, as if they are plagues to be avoided. (PDI, 7/6/05)

But even if they were, De Quiros has obviously lost touch of Christ's basic lessons, particularly a classic story where he Lord was condemned by the self-righteous for dining with sinners.

De Quiros may want to recall that Pimentel chose to languish in jail four times rather than yield to the pressures of mental rule, in which Enrile played a major part.

In Erap's presidency, Pimentel was a constantly insignificant voice on open the maneuvers and second envelope, which would have been convenience for him to stay quiet on the sidelines.

In these instances, Pimentel never gained the world. He lost it.

By the way, De Quiros was misleading when he wrote that Pimentel found himself sharing the same stage with his nemesis when he ran on Estrada's ticket in 1998. In this was in the middle of his senate run in then. But I don't want to believe De Quiros was trying to spruce his column with a stage of factual dishonesty. For that would be one bad lesson on morality.

—EDGAR DEASIDERIO,
San Ignacio Street,
Mandaluyong City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Tegas and Macapagal Avenue, City of Makati or send a fax to 896-6700, 897-8700, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Question of the Week

Do you think the planned image makeover of President Gloria Arroyo into a friendlier, gentler president will work?

Senders of short (5 lines or less) will be published in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *and each receive an "Inquirer Shirt"!*

Across the NATION

Plane blocks airport runway near Boracay

ILOILO CITY—Operations at the Caticlan Airport in Malay, Aklan was suspended yesterday after its runway was blocked by a 32-seat commercial aircraft's airbus rear wheel collapsed while landing at around at 9 a.m. yesterday.

The 32 passengers, who were bound for the resort's island of Boracay and four crew members of the jet-powered aircraft, operated by Interisland Airline, were safely evacuated, said Allan Jaro, the Transportation Office (DOT) manager in Western Visayas.

He said the landed on an NFO report in Caticlan, the rear wheel of the plane's right side gave way after the plane touched down at the tarmac at about 9 a.m. The plane swerved and the collapsed wheel got stuck on the runway's shoulder.

Since the plane blocked the 950-meter long runway, the incoming flights were diverted to the airport in the capital town of Kalibo, about one and a half hours away.

The outgoing flights were cancelled and the passengers were told to take their flights on the Kalibo Airport.

The Asian Spirit, in a statement, said all its flights here also were diverted to Kalibo.

It said the airline deployed Bbe 146 jets, advance turbo propeller aircraft, and Each Twin Otter "to ensure that all passengers leaving from Manila and Caticlan are all served." *Pedro Bacgao Jr., PDI Western Visayas Bureau*

Only 2 of 9 bets in ARMM attend peace covenant meet

DAVAO CITY—Only two of the nine gubernatorial candidates in the Aug. 11 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) showed up during Monday's signing of a peace covenant initiated by the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

Those who attended the covenant signing at the Marco Polo Hotel here were gubernatorial candidates Ibrahim Ibaba (Lanao del Sur/ARMM speaker and Maguindanao Rep. Datumal Mamalara.

Datu Guimbatuan Gov. Pamoh Hussin and Sharif Aguak town in Maguindanao sent representatives.

Those who did not bother to send any representative were gubernatorial candidates ARMM Vice Gov. Mahid Mutilan, Ahmad Nash, 66 Omar, Mangudadatu Inasal and the only female candidate, Pharma Imam Jakay.

The seven vice gubernatorial aspirants also failed to show up.

But Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos said the absence of the other candidates did not bother him at all.

"Maybe the others are not here due to unavailability of time," he said.

The signatories to the covenant pledged not to "personally or through our supporters, impose our will upon any voter, by way of force or violence, threat or intimidation, corrupt him with money or in any manner destroy his inherent right and freedom of choice."

The candidates also promised to abide by the rules and regulations being enforced in the ARMM elections as well as prohibitions on carrying and transporting of firearms and other deadly weapons, and the use of security personnel and bodyguards.

The candidates also promised to "accept the results of the elections and shall not unnecessarily delay the proclamation of the winning candidates and personally enjoin our supporters to do the same."

In Sabah, Sindian, Animal Bureau of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abeyamal soldiers and their commanders against allowing the country to be converting of Indian inside military camps.

"There will be no more counting of ballots inside [camps]. We will put a stop to this practice," this said during a meeting with 1,000-Army Brigade officers and soldiers in Jolo last Monday.

"I don't want the AFP to get involved in politics, we should be non-partisan," Abeyamal.

Representatives of the Ulbarmal Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) are scheduled to visit the country before the holding of the Aug. 11 elections to witness the peace agreement between the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Philippine government.

MNLF sources said Hamad Hasan said the visit was one of the important points agreed on during the recent Regional Executive Session of Foreign Ministers on June 28 in Iran's, Yemen.

The OIC also agreed to the planned construction of the government-MNLF joint monitoring team. Soon, also ARMM regional legislative session speaker said the OIC will convene there along with government representatives for a review of the 1996 peace accord implementation.

The MNLF signed a final peace agreement with the Philippine government on Sept. 2, 1996, during Manila, Julia Alipada and Geoffrey Morrow, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

An Invitation To A
PILGRIMAGE TO
GUADALUPE
Fr. JESS FERNANDEZ, S.J.
Pilgrimage Chaplain
Executive Resources, Inc.
PTAA

Puerto hosts cocoa confab

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—This city is hosting this year's second annual Bee valuable Extension Service for Small holders Alliance (Second Regional Cocoa Conference at the Legend Hotel on July 28 to 31.

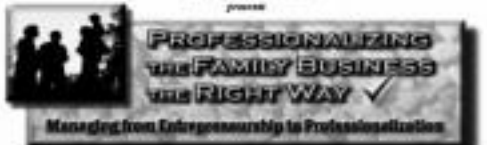
The conference, organized by the Agricultural Cooperatives Development International-Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA) in cooperation with the Cocoa Philippines Foundation Inc (Cocophil) and World Cocoa Foundation, hopes to open new windows for alternative livelihood to farmers in the city through cocoa farming.

City agriculture Officer Melissa Mercene said the area would benefit many farmers because the city has a wide land area suitable for cocoa farming.

Mercene added that the Cocophil and WCF would give some 100 cocoa seedlings to the town thus will potentiate cocoa farmers in the city.

Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn lauded the organizers, saying the event would benefit not only the farmers but also the economy. *Geraldford Tabo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

CENTER FOR GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES
in collaboration with
Punongbayan & Araullo
Institute of Small Business Administration
presents



25 & 26 August 2008 • ABS-CBN Conference Center, Makati City, Philippines • 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Enduring businesses result from successfully combining entrepreneurship & professionalization. Ensure the continued growth of your family business by professionalizing it the RIGHT way. Whether you have a single family or multi-family business structure, this seminar will provide you with these:

- ✓ SPECIAL TOOLS used to professionalize the family business
- ✓ FRAMEWORK for successful professionalization
- ✓ TECHNIQUES on succession, governance, and fraud audit
- ✓ BENEFITS by learning the success of a Filipino Family Business
- ✓ LESSONS FROM THE FIELD: Successful Strategies
- ✓ LEARNINGS: geographic, family counts, and other reminders

Who Should Attend:
- Business owners
- Family members
- Business stakeholders
- Business advisers and consultants
- Anyone interested in professionalizing a family business

RESOURCE SPEAKERS
Antonio N. Barrera, Principal, Head of Family Business Consulting – Punongbayan & Araullo
Lilian T. Lacsamana, Partner, Head of Business Risk Services – Punongbayan & Araullo
Juan Carlos R. Robles, Partner, Specialist in Forensic & Fraud Audit – Punongbayan & Araullo
Jaime R. Duran, Principal, Tax Advisory & Compliance – Punongbayan & Araullo
Joel I. Santos, Director – Ateneo International Business School
Basil E. Tuason, Senior Manager, Corporate Finance – Punongbayan & Araullo
Doreen M. Freixas, Specialist in Internal Controls – Punongbayan & Araullo
Genevieve V. Ruiz, Specialist in Family Corporate Governance – Punongbayan & Araullo
Rosario D. Ragasas, Specialist in Family Business Consulting – Punongbayan & Araullo

LIMITED SLOTS ONLY. CALL +63 2 845-7140 or 40 or E-MAIL inquiry@cgbp.org
REGISTER NOW and avail of the Early Bird and Business/Multi-Subscriber Discounts.
Seminar fee is PHP5,000 VAT (inclusive of AVR and PM snacks, lunch, resource kit, and certificate)

PLEASE CUT & MAIL THIS AD, GIVE THIS PRICE BELOW GOOD

INQUIRER · ABS-CBN · BusinessWorld

DENR

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT —Environment Secretary Michael Defensor ruled out the immediate closure of a marine park here where three false killer whales had died over the last four years, according to a Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau official.

PAWB Director Theresa Mundita Lim, head of a DENR investigating team sent here on Tuesday, said the shutdown of Ocean Adventure, an action sought by animal welfare groups, would only come after an evaluation would show strong basis for the facility's closure.

Animal welfare

"Instead of being antagonistic about it, we are giving the project proponent a chance to explain how it addressed animal welfare and environmental protection issues," Lim said.

The Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium Inc. (SBMEI) has operated the park, located at the Camayan Wharf, since February 2001.

Earlier, Gregorio Magdaraog, Ocean Adventure vice president for corporate affairs, said closing the park would "not only sentence the marine mammals there to certain death but would deprive Filipinos of the opportunity to truly appreciate the value of marine mammals as partners of humanity in the enormous tasks of saving our oceans."

The Earth Island Institute-Philippines, which has opposed the venture, said the death of the whales—Hock on July 8 this year, Coral in January 2004 and Deuce in July 2001—was enough reason to stop holding animals in captivity for entertainment shows.

Imported

The SBME, through the Subic Management Associates, imported at least six false killer whales (*Pseudorca crassidens*) and eight South American sea lions (*Otaria byronia*) from China in 2000. A fisheries special permit covered that importation, documents from the Department of Agriculture showed.

EII said the project was not consulted with the committee on animal welfare, an entity created by the Philippine Animal Welfare Act or Republic Act 8485.

Lim said the PAWB would review the environmental impact study (EIS) of the SBMEI and the environmental clearance certificate (ECC) issued to it by the ecology center of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Indigenous folk evicted by mayor from Baguio lots

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Indigenous peoples on Tuesday fought demolition squads sent by the city government to remove more than 30 houses that were built on a government reservation now being used as a dairy farm and research facility here.

No one was hurt but city demolition team members were bracing for a week long operation.

Dr. Georgia Kalngan, the farm's operation manager, said the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples has stalled the demolition since 2003 after the agency issued a restraining order against the Department of Agriculture.

Three Ibaloi clans have staked their ancestral land claims over the farm—the Quillo and Ikang Paus families and the heirs of Mateo Cariño, the Ibaloi herdsman who won a United States Supreme Court ruling that acknowledged his ancestral rights over what is now Camp John Hay in the early 1900s.

But the Court of Appeals issued a resolution last week affirming its April reversal of the NCIP injunction. The CA said the NCIP had no jurisdiction over the farm.

The ruling affects the claims of the Ikang Paus family over a portion of the 94-hectare government property.

Myrna Cacagas, ancestral domain officer, issued a letter certifying that NCIP has not issued the Ikang Paus family a Certificate of Ancestral Land Title (CALT).

The NCIP has yet to issue ancestral land titles covering Baguio City, following a controversy over alleged midnight titles that were processed during the administration of former President Joseph Estrada.

A separate CA ruling, however, affirmed NCIP's jurisdiction over an injunction petition filed by the Cariño family, said Leilene Carantes-Gallardo, NCIP Cordillera director.

"This means we have to address the two conflicting rulings from the court," she said.

Kalngan said Mayor Braulio Yaranon sent the demolition team on the strength of the first CA resolution.

DA is preparing to modernize the farm by rebuilding its dairy facilities and by restocking its cattle population in the face of proposals to break it up in favor of other government agencies, Kalngan said.

ROUNDUP

Tons of fish confiscated

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Navy's Task Force 41 stationed in Palawan has confiscated fishermen's catch in Batangas. While patrolling Linapacan town, the Navy men caught 39 fisherman onboard FB Gloria, a boat registered in Batangas. The 39 fishermen were caught using fine mesh nets, which is a violation of the Fisheries Code of the Philippines. The owner of the boat was identified as Ramon Zamesa of Nasugbu, Batangas, while the boat's captain was Restituto Comendador. In Roxas, Palawan, more than 700 kilograms of fish were also confiscated by Task Force 41. They caught 16 fishermen on board two boats using "hulbot-hulbot," another illegal means of fishing. The confiscated fish were turned over to municipal agriculture offices.

Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Vice mayor ambushed, slain

PAGADIAN CITY—The vice mayor of Dinas, Zamboanga del Surwas killed when ambushed by unidentified men in the village of Tarakan at around 3 p.m. Sunday. Chief Supt. Karib Muammil, police chief for Zamboanga del Sur, said Vice Mayor Abdulbasit Maulana was in his pickup truck when ambushed. Muammil said three of the vice mayor's civilian escorts were also killed in the attack. Three other civilians were wounded.

Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Tipid-abono program

CITY OF CALAPAN—Former Land Bank of the Philippines president and now Finance Secretary Gary Teves led the Department of Agriculture's recent launching here of the Tipid-Abono Program that recommends organic pesticide which, he said, is less expensive. In a separate event here, he also asked the local government to help increase tax collection.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bridge to be finished soon

ROXAS CITY—An official of the Second Engineering District in Capiz expressed optimism that the construction of the P17-million bridge in Dumalag town will finally be completed this year after being stalled by frequent floods. Hector Gargoles, acting assistant second district engineer, said the bridge was already 90 percent completed and was expected to be finished by September this year. The construction of the 10-span bridge started in January 2003 and was supposed to be finished in February this year. The bridge, about 250 meters long and eight meters wide, crosses the Panay River linking the town's Barangays Poblacion and San Roque.

Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau

COA probes 2 auditors in Pampanga

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Commission on Audit is investigating two provincial auditors in Pampanga over alleged unexplained wealth and graft involving the capitol's quarry operations, infrastructure and social services contracts.

The investigation came on the heels of a complaint filed by a "Concerned Kapampangan" at the Office of the President, according to Raquel Ramirez-Habitan, COA assistant commissioner and general counsel.

Habitan authorized a COA team to "administer oaths, take testimony, summon witnesses and compel the production of documents by compulsory process" based on Presidential Decree No. 1445 or the government auditing code.

The COA has reassigned the two auditors to Angeles City and Masantol town.

The complaint against the two auditors cited the alleged complicity of six former and current provincial capitol executives as well as four top COA regional officials. It also revealed details on the supposed pieces of property and activities of the two auditors.

According to the complaint, the two auditors allegedly "manipulated" last year's audit report on quarry operations to hide the alleged non-remittance of revenues from at least 3,964 pads of receipts issued to barangay officials in Sto. Tomas and Minalin towns.

The receipts were allegedly produced by an unauthorized printing house and redistributed by the provincial quarry task force. The task force collects a tax of P300 per truckload of sand hauled out of Pampanga.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

DID YOU KNOW...

Bubble Gang stalwarts Mosang and Lotlot Lubao are seen shopping with a companion recently at Glorietta 2 in Makati. She looked very sexy in a white tube dress.

Why first features are generally overwrought

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

First-time filmmakers could say a lot more by doing less. What's with this tendency to overwrite, over-state and over-direct?

THESE past few months, we have been viewing more than our usual number of movies by first-time filmmakers. After practically every screening, some of our colleagues approached us with questions about the films we've viewed.

Why, they usually ask, are movie directors' first features sometimes (often?) so long, overwritten, declamative and unfocused. They would have done a lot better by doing less, so what's with this tendency to over-write, over-state and over-direct?

Our answer is only half-facetious: We say Yhos time filmmakers do and say too much because many of them have been writing a long time in finally direct a full-length movie, so, what they want to say has been building and piling up for years, hence the surfeit of material, themes, insights, etc.

Also, they aren't sure if they will get follow-up offers to make their second or third movie. Therefore, they tend to put everything they want to say about everything that interests and concerns them in the first "full-length feature."

Or, other new filmmakers think there's really much to this observation, they could see it as a cautionary warning before they overcompensate and shoot their own debut movies.

What adjustments should they make? First, they should be more optimistic about their future prospects, and expect to make not just one film, but several. So, they should consciously delimit the themes of their initial production to only a few of the issues they're concerned about.

They should also emulate filmmakers that, while their debut film should be a showcase for what they can do (as internal producers in Hong Kong for other projects), they shouldn't overload it with all the tricks and double they can muster, for fear of overwhelming or overbearing their audience.

It would also help if the new filmmakers wouldn't be such an obvious copycat, jabbering breathlessly after and about impressions, pages of somebody else's screenplay, just to make a great first impression. So, keep it simple and focused—and honest.

Let's hope that new filmmakers take these notes to heart, so their first efforts at honest-to-film-ing won't be as predictably over-wrought as somewhere-over-the-rainbow.

Aside from resulting in greater success, this approach will also enable them to unveil their abilities sequentially, rather than in one full sweep, and thus prevent them from exposing themselves and becoming instant has-been one-early in the game.

Pre-departure briefing

TO HELP first-time winter sojourned quite everyday expressions in the United Kingdom and learn about living and studying in England, the British Council will present a pre-departure briefing called "Welcome to the UK," from 2 to p.m., from July 25 to 27, and Aug. 1 to 4. Venue is the British Council office at Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas. A specialized seminar for students will be held on July 25, 26 and Aug. 1 and 2. The briefing will cover a range of topics—British culture, lifestyle, climate, housing, cost of living, visa application, basic UK laws, how to adjust to the new environment, etc. Call 914-9011 to 14.

Movies on TV

CID HBO today at 6:30 a.m., "The Goodbye Girl," 10 a.m., "The House of Usher," 9 p.m., "Coming to America."

On Cinemax today at 9:35 a.m., "Ghost," 1:15 p.m., "Hardtimes."

On Star Movies today "Father of the Bride," to his hilarious exploits. Steve Martin turns in a winning performance as the befuddled father who has a hard time letting go his daughter (Kimberly Williams) when she unexpectedly announces her plans to wed. Martin Short lights up the screen as the oh-the-wall wedding consultant.

Feedback

THANK Ismmary Isabel Avalla-Soriano writes: "We are one with and hearts. Our hearts are broken, but our minds are whole, steady and clear... GMA is unanimously still the president. Our Asian selves must accept this, our inner that with the loss of some trust and respect, we must change. This is not a marriage of true selves; it is the growth of a people that should hold back self-esteem, and build on historical greatness. Please, the country first, not the palsied citizenry..."

'Tapiks Live & Live'

SOUTH spent a number of enjoyable economic nights at Tapiks in Ubay, QC. Thus, we're glad to learn Viva Records has produced a new "Tapiks Live & Live" album with three of the regulars's own pioneers: Hourglass, Mishar, Tangkilo and Gino with industry.

Those have members of Rico Villoso-Dorado on vocals, Dino-Jared Bernard, Edgar Cadiz on vocals and percussions, and Pardo Miguel Tiongson on guitar and back up vocals.

Mishkabangko is the sibling team of Michael and Angelo Mercadium. Mike is on vocals and bongos/cajon; Angelo plays guitar.

Gino with keyboards is composed of Gino Hugabanda and the party band Infatuation—Erlay Robles on vocals, BJ Manese on bass, Li Garcia on keyboard and Benjo Robles on drums and percussion.

Forget Ho Chi Minh City

A TEAM of 31 ABS-CBN stars, production staff and crew flew to Ho Chi Minh City recently to shoot relevant sequences for the upcoming drama series, "Victoria Rose," which stars Maricel Soriano.

The series, written by Ricky Lee and directed by Joel Lamangan, is about a Vietnamese woman's search for her self who leaves her country to start life anew in the Philippines.

The group—also including Dan Guevarra, second unit director; Monico Sequio, lighting director; Cathy Perez, production manager; Daisy Fernandez-Jose, executive producer; and Jerry Lim, executive consultant—returned for Ho Minh (formerly Saigon) and outlying areas for the perfect locations.

Initial filming took place recently at Lam Son Square, Notre Dame Cathedral (a replica of Paris' own), Ben Thanh market and Bin Saigon-Chua Vinh Nghiem Buddhist pagoda.

Other stars who joined the overseas shoot were Jay Manalo, Ricky Davao, Angelica Panganiban, Aj Dee and Jason Abalos. The rest of the cast members of John Estrada, Michelle Madrigal, Gok Mandy, Chanda Romero, Dina Alajar, Joseph Bitangcol and Christopher Perdido.

"Victoria Rose" marks Maricel's return to drama following her critically acclaimed anthology, "Sa Dulo" (Tears a decade ago."

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Baguio's ephemeral art transforms community

By Frank Cimaco
Baguio City

IN 1999, performance artist Roberto Villanueva found a small lagoon below the Baguio Convention Center where members of the Baguio Arts Guild (BAG) were preparing for their 2nd International Baguio Arts Festival.

He created an installation by floating coconut shells with candles on the undergrowth cove. Only a few people dared look at the "thing it for sure" or "soul offering" at that time.

Little did Villanueva know that he would be instigating one of the most enduring forms of community art in the country.

On July 16, 1999, an earthquake measuring 7.7 magnitude struck the Baguio area that claimed the city and brought it to ruins. Literally to some people, as the Cafe by the Ruins can be eaten, including Villanueva, Dave Bandao, Linda Jan Perez, Satoru Mandoloado, Jason and Jo Quinaldo, BenCab, Roy Fadumtao and Dominic Arvin, became the soup kitchen for some of the hungry then.

BAGUIO artists and residents perform the "Bisang it Karuma" to remember the victims of the July 16, 1990 killer earthquake. CLIMACO

Villanueva also started his thing it Karuma, bringing it out of the convention center and into the barangka lake. It was a trigger that then and the like are earthquake fog.

The emotional among the first members, who would later form the core of Pamplikan Incel, here pimps and drama in Villanueva's and the other artists floated the coconut shells in the spirit boats laden with candles and flowers, and incantations for the dead.

Poignant scene

It was a poignant scene, considering that some residents were still looking for their missing kin buried there 800 officially declared dead on the city equal number missing.

Anthropologist Cecilia de Guia, then executive BAG member, later said in her upcoming book, "Bisang it: The Still in the Other," that Villanueva's Bisang it Karuma is one manifestation of art transforming the community.

But then Villanueva's ephemeral art was always community driven, one reason De Guia included him among Filipino artists who were guided by the core values of a Bakdang Pilipino.

One of his first art works is the Cordillera Labyrinth modeled after the ancient tattoo pound (abrasion) at the top (apex). His labyrinth is made of rose (seed) that, like all mantra, has to be redone as to be appreciated.

Other community-driven works are the "Mother's Mandala" made of the handkerchiefs of mothers, the "North Acupuncture" and the "Bridge of Cross Culture" that Villanueva made in Japan.

In 2003, Villanueva also made an installation among the dirt people in Ifi. Pamalaloy making a huge offering for their departed. The dirt who guards the underworld volcano, while the white people danced around it.

But for Bisang it Karuma culminated seven fill-in-one video shrine of violence in 1995.

Darnay explores the lithograph

By Grace Balele
Contributor

SELF portrait of Darnay Dumantay.

IBIBAN: Exploring the lithograph," in a rung-in-a-classic article for the latest exhibit of University of the Philippines Baguio's artist-in-residence, Prof. Darnay Dumantay. It bears at the artist's experience of the creative process in his latest exploration in printing techniques.

"Mastering Armaeus 1A for years dumpsell," Dumantay laughs, explaining the curious choice for the show's title, which nevertheless appropriately suggests the intricacies and technical challenges presented by his newest experimentation with the printing process. Armaeus is the city's garbage dump.

Lithograph printing is a planographic process—the use of printing from a flat stone, or zinc, or aluminum plate on which a drawing or design has been made, similar to the procedure involved in printing newspapers.

There are no engravings or raised surfaces, unlike, for example, in relief printing with a woodblock or making a thumbprint.

"Pulling the print out [from the printing surface] is a thrill," he says, as the knowledge comes problems encountered in his recent rediscovery of lithograph printing, a method that has been used over 50 years ago.

As an artist, Dumantay continually explores new ways of doing things. "Everything is discovery," he says, "and I find all the answers by myself."

"Prints: Exploring the Lithograph" is an exhibit of new works by Prof. Darnay Dumantay in connection with his appointment to the UP Foundation professorial chair in the arts and is in line with UP Baguio's activities to commemorate the institute on July 23 of UP president, Dr. Emerlinda Roman. The show runs until July 23 at UP Baguio's Gallery Kordillera.

Equitable PCI

MALABON CITY

Squatters take over sidewalk

By Nancy C. Carvajal

MANILA: Not there were not enough funds for the relocation of informal settlers affected by a demolition in Malabon City, the local government temporarily allowed them to build their dwellings on the sidewalk.

"I have to temporarily allow them to build their homes in the sidewalk before a proper relocation area could be found," said Mayor Canuto Oreta.

Oreta added that the local government had no budget to relocate the 1,200 families removed from the four-hectare property of Ronjie Cruz that straddled Letre Road, Tanong, Flora and Acacia streets, all in Barangay Tugatog.

"With the help of the PCUP (Presidential Commission on the Urban Poor), I am hopeful that they could be moved to a relocation site immediately," Oreta said.

Humanitarian reasons

In the meantime, he said, they could stay as long as they would not obstruct traffic.

Oreta said he was allowing the squatters to stay on the street for humanitarian reasons.

The demolition order signed by Judge Benjamin Aquino of the Metropolitan Trial Court was finally implemented last Thursday after several delays, he said.

Also the demolition, the informal settlers built their shanties in the middle of Letre Road, which the mayor said was a direct challenge to authorities.

"I cannot allow them to cause more chaos that could affect traffic in Malabon," the mayor said.

Oreta said that before Thursday's demolition, leaders of the settlers signed an agreement that they would voluntarily tear down their houses and not move to the streets.

800 families to go

The agreement was signed to grant another extension to those in 800 more families, who were able to stay on in the disputed area up to July 14.

Signatories included a representative of Cmdr. Vice Mayor Arnold Vicencio, city councilors, Barangay Tugatog chair Ruling Santiago, city urban poor division head Rey Medalla and Remi Manoli of the PCUP.

However, members of the group, Bg Samahang Letre, said they would not leave their homes.

Ng Ji'Daniel Iland title it was not clear where his property began and ends," one of their leaders said, adding that they were willing to fight for their homes.

Medalla said another demolition would take place on Tuesday if the remaining families would not redeem the lots.

NBI discovers Cebu link in drug import ring

By Margaux C. Orig

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is looking for an Indian allegedly involved in the illegal importation and distribution of drugs following the arrest of his Nigerian partner last week.

NBI Special Task Force chief Lemuyo Bayani de Esmeralda said Pakistani Sami Amanullah had identified his Cebu-based accomplice as Harjeet Singh.

"This group imports regulated drugs like Valium from Pakistan because medicines there are cheaper," Esmeralda said in an interview.

Amanullah, 38, was nabbed last April 14 at his house at 65 C.M. Recto St., Inner Circle, BF Homes, Parañaque City.

The NBI agents seized 700 tablets of 5 mg Valium at diazepam from his residence.

The agents also confiscated 107.2 g of alleged marijuana from Amanullah's bedroom as well as P1 million worth of unserved medicines, including antibiotics and inhalers.

Charges readied

Esmeralda said that aside from charges for violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, they would also file a case of illegal importation of goods against Amanullah.

Esmeralda said that the possession and peddling of at least 10 g of illegal drugs would warrant life imprisonment to death.

The NBI official added that they would also investigate the persons whom Amanullah had sold the drugs to, as shown in his logbook.

Computer Problem? We come to YOU!
PCHelp
Trained and Experienced Technicians
727-2222

Not during rush hours

By DJ Yap

QUEZON Avenue and other major thoroughfares in Quezon City may soon be off-limits to student drivers and their instructors when traffic is at its busiest.

Quezon City Lawmakers have proposed a ban on practice driving on the city's busy streets to avoid traffic jams and accidents.

Rubén Godofredo Liban III and 10 other councilors noted that student drivers slowed down traffic and increased the risk of road mishaps.

The ordinance seeks to penalize student drivers caught practicing on the streets during peak hours from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., and from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Seminar for UK visitors

THE BRITISH Council will present a predeparture briefing program to persons interested in living and studying in Britain. The one-day seminar will be held from July 25-27 and Aug. 1-4, at the British Council of Inc., 10th floor, Tuason Place, Ortigas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Registration fee is P1000. For details, call Alice at 914-1800 to 14.

Pioneer
sound. vision. soul
DVD Recorders
P 49,990.00
DVR-720H-S
P 44,990.00
DVR-520H-S
P 26,990.00
DVR-530-S
DVD Players
P 8,990.00
DV-676A-S
P 6,490.00
DV-575K-S
P 4,490.00
DV-575S
P 4,990.00
DV-270S
There's always a
PIONEER DVD
for everybody!
P 31,990.00
HTP535
P 29,990.00
HTZ720
P 26,990.00
HTX424
P 22,990.00
HT55
P 17,990.00
HTZ228
Home Theater Systems
P 23,990.00
DV09
P 19,990.00
DV66
P 15,990.00
DV33
Mini Hi-Fi Systems
Available at leading A/V specialists and appliance stores. *Provincial prices may slightly vary.
e-mail us at: mgmkt@icompass.com.ph

Malabon lawman relieved

THE HEAD of the Mayulo, Malabon, police detachment has been relieved of his post after he was arrested Sunday night in Pampanga during a buy-bust operation.

Malabon police chief Supt. Melvin Guevarra said he had assigned Insp. Fernando Dampang Jr. on his office pending investigation of the illegal drugs charges filed against him.

"He is confined to my office until he is cleared or formally charged," Guevarra said.

According to a report filed by Chief Insp. Mosmy Villacorta of the Pampanga Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Dampang was arrested with two others on Sunday in a buy-bust operation on Bayabas Street, Dau Economic, in Mabalacat.

Reportedly found in their possession were 14 sachets of suspected shabu weighing 34.80 grams, four P500 bills used as buy-bust money, one 9mm Glock pistol with 14 rounds of ammunition, and one Toyota Revo with plate number UBL444.

But Dampang, in an interview, denied the allegations, saying he was only in the wrong place at the wrong time.

He was released by a prosecutor pending his/her investigation.

P1 MORE STARTING AUG. 3

LTFRB OKs hike for aircon buses

By Clarissa Batino

METRO air-conditioned buses will charge passengers an additional P1 starting Aug. 3, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said yesterday. Nonaircon buses in the provinces, on the other hand, will impose a P2.50 fare increase.

With the order, metro aircon buses already charging a minimum fare of P11 from the original P9 will have to roll back their fare.

The LTFRB yesterday issued the order allowing aircon buses to have a Manila to increase their base via P10.0 to the first five kilometers, and collect an additional P1.75 for every succeeding kilometer.

The order also puts to rest the question as to whether or not the fare of aircon buses in Metro Manila is deregulated.

Issued on the LTFRB order setting a specific fare for the current buses, the fare issue deregulated. Operators of these buses had long taken advantage of a vague transportation department order in 2002 saying that "the premium for air-conditioned services shall at least be 20 percent more than the basic authorized fare."

On July 7, the LTFRB directed metro aircon buses not to increase their fares without seeking the body's approval. It also cited a Supreme Court order saying that even the fares of metro aircon units must be regulated.

"The board, through solidified complaints, discovered that aircon buses have been in Metro Manila were 30 percent higher than non-aircon bus fares after the May 5 increase (for non-aircon metro buses), and 50 percent higher prior to the last increase," said the LTFRB in its order.

The approved fare hike for metro aircon buses is 25 percent higher than the P8 minimum fare of regular buses. But the fare for every succeeding distance, at P1.75, is the same.

The LTFRB had earlier approved a P2 increase in minimum fares of jeepneys and non-aircon metro buses to P7.50 for the first four kilometers for jeepneys and P8 for the first five kilometers for buses. In approving the new rates, the LTFRB said it considered the surging diesel prices and the substantial increase in oil taxes.

Provincial buses were allowed to increase their fares for the first five kilometers to P6.50, from P6. Every additional kilometer will be covered by a fare of P1.28 against the previous P1.16. The provincial fare hike was lower than the P1 or 20-percent increase in minimum fare sought by the Provincial Bus Operators Association of the Philippines. The order is scheduled for publication today and takes effect after 15 days, or on Aug. 3.

DANCING FOUNTAIN

A girl is a picture of joy and fascination as she plays in the podium of the Market! Market! commercial center at The Fort in Taguig City. Market! Market! recently opened at the podium the floating dancing fountain which is fast becoming popular among shoppers.

'Arroyo giving mothers a bad image'

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A RESOURCE is wasted.

That was how women's groups described President Macapagal-Arroyo as they led a march of 1,000 protesters through the Makati Central Business District yesterday afternoon.

"Ms. Arroyo has degraded the image of the woman, of a female leader, because of her bad administration," said protest leader Liza Maza.

Maza added: "She has distorted the image of a mother, who should be one to teach her children as well the trade always. But GMA (Arroyo) destroyed that."

Mothers carrying their babies, toddlers, students, female laborers, and members of urban poor groups, with a sprinkling of men from various militant groups, marched to Ayala Avenue in the first gathering of the new anti-Arroyo women's alliance, Women's March or Women's Movement for Arroyo's Resignation and Regime Change.

The protest gathered members of Gabriela, women; members of Kilusang Mayo Uno, Anakpawis, People's Movement Against Poverty, Anakbayan and the League of Filipino Students, and students from St. Scholastica's College.

They were joined by members of the militant sector, including most red-yellow-clad members of Bangon Kabuhayan, of evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva.

Sandra Cam, who linked Arroyo's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo and his brother-in-law Ipong Ignacio "Iggy" Miguel to "jueteng," spoke to the crowd.

Just as the women wrapped up their rally, another anti-Arroyo coalition marched with their members amassed for Ayala triangle.

The solidarity of Bishops and Labor Urgent Actions for New Government, a newly forged broad-based alliance of 10 labor centers, took to the streets at nightfall to call for the dismantling of the government and the establishment of a transitional government.

Get a Chance to WIN!!!
₱100,000 GoCube
Video Cards
PC BUYER'S GUIDE

WEDNESDAY
JULY 28, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
A 33
SPORTS

Lito Teodoro S. Philenotes

Dolphins look to Espinas for No. 6

DO-IT-ALL Gabby Espinas will try to lead the Philippine Christian U Dolphins to their sixth straight victory when they battle the St. Bernadine Blazers in the NCAA basketball tournament at 2 p.m. today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Averaging a league pace-setting 16.6 rebounding champion Dolphins are the Letran Knights, who will clash with the Mapua Cardinals at 4 p.m.

Espinas, the 2004 Most Valuable Player and Rookie of the Year is coming off another big game, in the Dolphins' recent 87-49 triumph over the Cardinals. Espinas delivered 11 points, 13 rebounds, three steals and three blocks.

The numbers-no-longer-mean-no-win

ESPINAS: Back to MVP form

results Jamel Bassil, who was also glad to note the changes in the Dolphins' brand of play.

"Last year, they're an offensive-minded team," said Bassil. "We're now sitting the bulwark, sticking them into a more defensive team."

Knights coach Louie Alas also pointed out the improvement in his squad.

"We're playing better defense," said Alas. "The players' attitude definitely a starting to show."

The Knights, who last held a 5-0 start during their title run in 1998, blasted the Blazers, 91-85, last Friday.

Sophomore 6-foot-7 center Mark Andaya dominated the paint for the Knights, finishing with 13 points, 12 rebounds and four blocks.

Meanwhile, coach Boboy Lim isn't a bit worried that the Cardinals' four-game winning run ended last Friday against the Dolphins.

"We're facing teams that are much stronger and taller than us," said Lim, noting that Mapua is wrapping up the first round against top contenders PCU, Letran and St. Benilde.

"Those are tough games, that the pressure is on them, not us. If we could win both one or two teams, that's fine with me."

The Blazers, too, will try to get into the groove again after dropping their last two matches. Jasmine M. Payo

STANDINGS	W	L
PCU	3	0
LETRAN	3	0
Mapua	4	1
Benilde	3	2
SBC	2	3
Perpetual	1	3
San Beda	1	3
JRU	0	4

La Salle formalizes UAAP protest

CONTROVERSY is brewing early in the UAAP tournament.

The UAAP technical committee will meet today after La Salle board representative Ramon Jose filed a formal protest last Monday over alleged non-call on goal-tending violations in the Archers' disputed game against the University of the East Warriors.

The Warriors narrowly beat the Archers, 57-56, last Sunday but Jose cited two instances of goal-tending in the game.

Aurora's Nicky Palou heads the technical committee, whose members include University of Santo Tomas' Emilio de Jesus, Adamson's Glenville Mutuc, University of the Philippines' Kiko Diaz, La Salle's Bantamoro Canayon and EEn Rolando Perez.

League commissioner Jun Ugat will make recommendations.

Jose said there were goal tending violations on Ed Cruz's bucket in the second quarter and on Chuks Villanueva's shot near the end of the third period.

Technical head Benny Carreon, however, explained right after the game that the alleged non-calls "did not decide the outcome" and "La Salle still had the chance to win it on all the final buzzer."

The loss was the Archers' second straight after six opening day coat of Bruce tied Ateneo on a 1-2 record. Jasmine M. Payo

CARRYBOY
The Name of Quality and Design.
Dial: 740-0525 or 30

RP jins bag 4 medals

GUANGDONG, South Korea—four members of the Orion national taekwondo team, led by Dan Alberto Marb, bagged a medal each in the prestigious 6th Korea Open Championships taekwondo International Championships here recently.

Marb capped a silver medal while Adonis Olympic veteran Sibuntlan Gan and Mary Antoinette Rivera and Esther Marb Singson cop bared a bronze each.

Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert E. Aventajado praised Marb and company. "We're proud of them. They did well considering the tough, world-class competition."

On the other hand, national training director Stephen Fernandez said it was "a good experience to check the performance level of our players so we can prepare them better for the Southeast Asian Games in Manila this November."

The international team members are undergoing a tough military-style training at the Philippine Marines Center in Tarsay, Cavite, as part of their preparation for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Nina back at Suburbia

NINA appears her successful show "Soul Sista @ Suburbia Bar" on July 20.

She will perform rare from her latest 11-track album, "Miss Lisa".

Call 811-0720 or 410-1005.

July 20

"Follies de Shendi" at Club Mendi! Call 535-7043.

Side A at Tower-on-the Square, Greenhill 3

Twisted Pair at Suburbia

Shilla Andreas the Pan Pacific Hotel

Silk at Fiesta San Miguel Duati Hotel Nikko

July 21

"Follies de Shendi" at Club Mendi! Call 535-7043.

Strabos Lourenzo of The Campanil at the Hard Rock Café

Whispers at Towers on the Square, Greenhill 3

Shakespeare and Shrydome at Suburbia

Rosemary Street at Fiesta San Miguel Duati Hotel Nikko

July 22

Mitch Valdez in A Rockin' Comedy concert at the Capitale's Star, Mandarin Oriental Manila.

"Spectacula," a dinner, magic, dance and full production show at Club Mendi! starting at 7 p.m. Call 535-7043.

Rhythm and Robes at Hyatt Regency's Cabana Bar, 10 p.m.

Pat Sessions at Towers on the Square, Greenhill 3

Rosemary Street at Fiesta San Miguel Duati Hotel Nikko

July 23

Mitch Valdez in A Rockin' Comedy concert at the Capitale's Star, Mandarin Oriental Manila.

"Spectacula," a dinner, magic, dance and full production show at Club Mendi! starting at 7 p.m. Call 535-7043.

Lounge at Towers on the Square, Greenhill 3

Mike Chan at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall

July 24

Ryan Velasco with Maureen at Shangrila Mall, 5 p.m.

John Prats, Pulsemag, Jhong Hilario and Amber Shimazaki in the premier tour of their movie, "El Amobori" at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall

July 25

Freestyle at Towers on the Square, Greenhill 3

Extension at Schatffes

Shilla Andreas at the Oberoia Lounge of the Hyatt Hotel

Bands 753 at Fiesta San Miguel Duati Hotel Nikko

July 26

"Follies de Shendi" at Club Mendi! Call 535-7043.

The Campanil at Hyatt's

Strawberry at Suburbia

Ryan Velasco with Maureen at Towers on the Square, Greenhill 3

Art, composed of Dyanlo Javier, Pinky Marquez, Ian Alanzon and Bimbo Gonzalez, at Sentrong Makati

Shilla Andreas at the Cocina Lounge of the Hyatt Hotel

Shaolin refill: Spin Art at Fiesta San Miguel Duati Hotel Nikko

Agent of 97 at De Capitale's Star of the Mandarin Oriental

July 27

"Follies de Shendi" at Club Mendi! Call 535-7043.

Side A at Tower-on-the Square, Greenhill 3

Twisted Pair at Suburbia

Shilla Andreas at the Pan Pacific Hotel

Silk at Fiesta San Miguel Duati Hotel Nikko

July 28

"Follies de Shendi" at Club Mendi! Call 535-7043.

Whispers at Towers on the Square, Greenhill 3

SIDE A at Towers on the Square

MYDY Polanco

Rosemary Street at Fiesta San Miguel Duati Hotel Nikko

July 29

MTV Night to Royalty Courses at The Fort Open Field, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. The concert will feature Apo Hiking Society, Kuh Ledesma, Nina, Joey Ayala, Pinoy Sunrise, Side A, Tina Paffle, Jay-R and many more.

"Spectacula," a dinner, magic, dance and full production show at Club Mendi! starting at 7 p.m. Call 535-7043.

Rhythm and Robes at Hyatt Regency's Cabana Bar, 10 p.m.

Pat Sessions at Towers on the Square

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

THEATRE MALL

NOW SHOWING

1 TWEEDLAND PICS

2 D'ONLY PICS

PROMENADE

NOW SHOWING

3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

4 TWEEDLAND PICS

5 TWEEDLAND PICS

MAGIC MOMENTS

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 THE ISLAND

2 THE ISLAND

3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

4 FANTASTIC FOUR

PREMIERE THEATRE: IF ONLY

Catch the Cineplex Special!

A Blockbuster Gift for All Seasons

The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 FANTASTIC FOUR

2 THE ISLAND

3 THE ISLAND

4 HERBIE FULLY LOADED

687-6963

GUARANTEED SEATS

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City

THE ISLAND | THE ISLAND | HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

FANTASTIC FOUR | IF ONLY | THE ISLAND

NOW SHOWING at SM CINEMA movietime

ISLAND

OPENS TODAY

We invite you to BE the FIRST to watch NEW movies in our SM Premiere Cinemas every Wednesday

FOR GUARANTEED SEATS

METRO MANILA

LUZON

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SAVE UP TO P30.00

CALL NOW 831-9999 CLICK AWAY www.smcinema.com

Hot-shooting Tribu Sugbu five rips Spring

MINDANAILA, Cebu—Defending champion Tribu Sugbu crushed Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna, 82-66, Sunday to stroke Cebu's 6th Centro de Semillero Conference lead in the 2008 Discounts MBC national basketball championship at the Sports Center here.

The Mogpo Mills-supported Cebuanos of homecourt Ian Gilbuena and Mario Ilog shot 8-of-16 from the 3-point territory to snap the Cooking Oil Masters' two-game winning run while defending their isolation mark at home to 16-0 during their last season.

Terrence Almeida made her triples while Alex Cabagnot added three to power Tribu to a 47-36 second-quarter lead after the Laguna squad of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro rallied to an intermission.

Tribu's seventh victory in nine games established it to catch Isaac Go-ante in the tournament supported by Panasonic, Subjects Gains, Spring Cooking Oil, Accel, Mobiline, Bounty's Spring, Sa Tambo's Insurance, Mogpo Motorcycles, Skiffer, Magnet Toothpaste, Downbeat, RBE Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Mobility Plaza Cebu.

Laguna (3-2) lasted another tough opponent in Montreal last night in the Shoeless Sports series.

Tribu used Spring height cruelty in the first quarter which ended at 18-16. But the Cebuanos pulled away in the second quarter, when Almeida and Cabagnot teamed for four baskets for the set.

Almeida finished with 19 points, four rebounds, one steal and two blocks.

Spring's new recruits—Brandon Villanueva and Mel Lorenzana—did not help much since they were still adjusting to coach Vic Sandoval's plans.

Scores:

TRIBU SUGBU—Almeida 19, Ilustre 14, Cabagnot 10, Ian-ore 10, Mendoza 7, Abad 6, Alcoseba 6, Bugat 4, Mamuyac 4, Ilog 2, Pagkanaan 2, Fortuno 2, Bangalan-Pasag 0.

LAGUNA—Ko—Ahmad 12, Domingo 10, Reyes 9, Alipoon 8, Cortes 8, Ramos 6, Lorenzana 4, Montreal 3, Abdul 2, Bacani 1, Mendoza 1, Pascua 1, Abad 0, Acosta 0.

Quarters: 18-16, 47-36, 68-49, 82-66

2 Davao bets seize Streetball final slots

TEAM Davao bolstered out a pair of victories on Sunday to capture senior and girls divisions and clinch two berths in the national finals of the adidas Streetball Challenge at the MOA Mall Atrium.

Arena-tie frontrunners the junior phase and Team Big Mac of Cagayan de Oro snapped the subgroup title to also advance to the national finals slated July 30-31 at the Festival Mall in Alabang.

Strategy Mack of Team Davao pulled off a 20-17 victory over Team Zamboanga's Balanggay Tabas-Tabas to capture the senior crown at the close of the adidas Streetball Challenge Mindanao finals.

Carlo Legaspi fired nine points for the Hubert Ibo-sponsored Team Davao, which thumped Team Magnolia of Batangas, Laguna, 17-8, in the Davao qualifiers of the event as presented by Globe Gamez and backed by Mcdonald's, Gatorade, Mighty-mania, Snickers chocolate bar, Coppertone, adidas footwear and body care, Blue Angel alcohol, Bliss, Powerade, Viva Mineral Water, adidas eyewear and Rhinestone.

Team Mayores of Misamis Occidental held off Team Davao Holy Child School of Davao, 10-12, to cop the junior crown.

Team Big Mac of City Government of Cagayan de Oro beat Team Cagayan de Oro Mayor Vicente Emano, 15-10, to cop the subgroup title.

Shell five's fate hangs in the air

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

STILL feeling from the offseason controversy in the recently concluded PBA Governor's Cup, Bobby Ginzalez left his star draft number . . . Now when his board questioned on the fate of his team in the papers.

Bobby E was not in that meeting. In fact, he has been incommunicado since the storm flares.

After the meeting, he suddenly materialized, spewing fire and brimstone. Bobby E did not like the fact that the board had discussed and argued about what to do with his team in his absence and even before he could give official notice of his bailout/ player's option.

At the height of his fury, Bobby E threatened to dump all of the team's players and let the board of directors find out what had landed the remains of the meeting to the press. Shell had an understanding with the board and the PBA commissioner's office that no announcement regarding the status of the team would be discussed until Bobby E demanded to know who broke the rules.

. . .

Truth is, nobody really knows what will happen to Shell, perhaps even Bobby E himself.

I was harassed yesterday from a Shell insider's that Bobby E had gathered the players and the coaching staff last week to discuss the possibilities.

There were three possible scenarios, he told the group.

One is that the team will stay active for at least one more season. This was the option he was the second choice. Bobby had forwarded to Shell's board offices first, that the Shell franchise would be sold—and there, if neither of the first two happens, there will be no other scenario but to disband the team, in which case a dispersal draft will take place soon after.

This last item sparked a heated argument in the last board meeting, with Global's Jaime Trillo proposing that the disbanded Shell players be sold instead.

Joaquin's proposal was eventually shot down, but not before some exchange of harsh words.

This I heard, the board had agreed to put the Turbochargers into a dispersal pool and would be drafted through lottery and not ranking. That is, if Shell eventually folds up.

. . .

I realized how popular badminton has become in this country when calls, e-mails, and fan messages flooded the PSE Sports desk to contact an issue I wrote in this column. World record doubles champion Sotohon Indonesian, then said, plays with a Cadbon racket, which he endorses, and not a Yonex, as a top consumer-driven was told for during opening day of the MVP Cup. We regret the error.

. . .

The turnout at the San Miguel Beer hockey celebration was so huge it could put the political rallies to shame. Fiesta, music and San Miguel officers and staff were all there, from Eric Recto Aquino, who took her a sister name, graced the occasion held at the SMC complex in Mandaluyong last Friday.

Rivals admit: It's over

Armstrong already 'impossible to beat'

PAU, France—Lance Armstrong's closest rival says there is no way to stop the American from winning a seventh straight Tour de France title.

Bowling into Tuesday's 15th stage of the Tour de France, Armstrong holds a nearly three-minute lead over his closest challenger, who have less than a week left.

"It's not possible to beat him," second-placed Iban Mayo said Monday in a defeat resigned to Pau. "I have done all I can."

Mayo is 2 minutes, 46 seconds behind Armstrong. With a nine-mid on the penultimate day—Armstrong's specialty—Mayo needs to make significant gains in the four stages before that for an improbable comeback.

Barely Time CEC director Marco Bala conceded resignation defeat.

"He (Armstrong) has class, strength and skill. He's not easy to beat someone like that," Bala said.

Tuesday's 166.5-kilometer (103.2-mile) stage from Mourenx to Pau is the last long mountainous route of the Tour. Several riders head through the Massif Central area of France on Wednesday before a rest day.

Armstrong's team director Johan Bruyneel, manager cautioned about Tuesday's 166, which features the Col de Marie-Blanque, a category one climb, and the Col d'Aubisque, a harder ascent which does not have a rating. It rises for 16.5 km (10 miles) at a 7.5-percent gradient.

"It's a difficult stage. The last climb is tough, and quite long," he said.

The Discovery Channel rider have had two bad days so far on the Tour Mountain, both times Armstrong did not lose any time to his rivals.

Jan Ullrich, the 1997 Tour champion, is Armstrong's biggest threat, is 4th he's 5:56 and Alexander Vinokourov is by 9:08.

Following Tuesday's mountain stage it is the route from Pau to Revel which is a potential hazard as spectators will be scattered along the pavement.

LANCE: Armstrong looks headed for a seventh title. AP

Spring's new recruits—Brandon Villanueva and Mel Lorenzana—did not help much since they were still adjusting to coach Vic Sandoval's plans.

Scores:

TRIBU SUGBU—Almeida 19, Ilustre 14, Cabagnot 10, Ian-ore 10, Mendoza 7, Abad 6, Alcoseba 6, Bugat 4, Mamuyac 4, Ilog 2, Pagkanaan 2, Fortuno 2, Bangalan-Pasag 0.

LAGUNA—Ko—Ahmad 12, Domingo 10, Reyes 9, Alipoon 8, Cortes 8, Ramos 6, Lorenzana 4, Montreal 3, Abdul 2, Bacani 1, Mendoza 1, Pascua 1, Abad 0, Acosta 0.

Quarters: 18-16, 47-36, 68-49, 82-66

Samsung interscholastic golf under way in Cebu

FORTY-SEVEN shots south got the chance to shine in their tee for division/season opening today in the Samsung Interscholastic golf championships, the series' first one-of-a-team course at the Cebu Country Club in Cebu City.

Eighty-three players have registered for the tournament, the first half of two Interscholastic competitions sponsored by Samsung as part of its efforts to help prepare young golfers for future competitions.

Joining action are at least 10 players from various schools in Cebu and Bacolod, including Second Heart Ateneo, Springdale, San Carlos, La Salle Bacolod, Bethany, CIE, Bright Academy, St. Benedict, Cebu Eastern and CIS.

They will contend for the high school and elementary team titles as well as the individual titles for both categories, according to Boy Blue Gicanagan of the organizing Professional Sports Management Group Inc.

Ann's Mesa, junior golf competitor in Cebu, said the season is a big boon to the sort for juniors in the south.

"We've been waiting for quite sometime now and we're glad that Samsung is doing it for our school kids here," said Mesa.

The Midsize-scoring system will be used for the season, most also supported by Tubao Tokyo, KIA, Coppertone Sport, Bonus, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Starbuck, Rudy Project, Cobra Fibre and Sports Plus Mo. this package are Hunter 89-1, Jam 88.5, 99-9, 99-9, 88 10-3, 5 Lite and Bike Sun.

Top artists lend a hand to Asean Para Games

PHILIPPINES are proceeding as scheduled for the country's hosting of the 2nd Asean Para Games from Dec. 14-21, with organizers focusing on marketing the event fundraising process with disabilities.

This Friday, a promotional event will be launched at the Cuneo Pilipino in Makati, with economic officials the Department of Interior various sports to be held to support the multi-kinds of the Para Games.

The main-mall items are designed by Gerald Raymundo, a related disabilities artist who has lost a hand in the accident. The winning submission drawings supporters.

Proceeds of the event, hosted by Jimmy Hallow, will cover costs for the country's hosting chores.

The Philippines is the first country to obtain the support of world-famous Lea Salonga who has agreed to re-record the theme song entitled "The Power of My Dreams." The song, a product of a collaboration among several artists and composers, will be composed and sung by Salonga. Acquiring support were Joey Reyes, Marvin Querido and Gerard Salonga, is expected to be launched next month.

"We are very glad that Lea and other big names in the music industry have agreed to help us in this endeavor," said Asean Para Games Organizing Committee chair Michael Borromeo.

SPORTSWATCH

As-Pac Bronco meet all set in Marikina

IT'S ALL systems go for the Asia Pacific Invitational Championship and the Far Pacific Junior Baseball Games of the 20th Olympiad presidents Malolos City. Peabody "Boy" Magpoc, president of the Philippine Far Baseball Federation, made the announcement during a press conference at the Marikina Sports Center in Marikina. The Asia-Pacific event is scheduled on July 22 to 26 while the Far Pacific event is lined up on Aug. 12 to 16. Competing in the first event are teams from Japan, Chinese Taipei, the Philippines and the host city. The Filipinos is a selection of boys from Metro Manila and nearby cities while Marikina City, Quezon Province and Cebu City will represent the country in the Far Pacific tournament. Magpoc added that the Philippines will be represented by a team from Cebu City. Meanwhile, Marikina Mayor Bayani Fernando said the city government is prepared to spend P1 million for the tournament. "This is a good opportunity for Filipinos to see how talented these children are. Let's support them," said Fernando.

Pasay Anniversary derby round 2 today

PIERCE rockfighting action resumes today in Pasay City Coliseum's 50th PCC Anniversary Cock Derby, second-round eliminations. Ninety-seven cockers and breeders from different provinces are entered in Monday's opening-day of the derby sponsored by Cagayan Sunglasses. Among the 51 pairs will be a stiff-action entry from Lipa cockfighting. Pairings will throw cloughs at 1 p.m. Admission is P100, P200 ringside. For inquiries: call 832-1000, 833-1130 or 0 of 833-1131.

Pahabol sa Tagaytay 4-cocker Aug. 8

THE PAHABOL sa Tag-Cagaytay 4-Cock Derby will be held at the Manok Coliseum, Derby number is Aug. 8 with 12 guaranteed prize of P300,000 for 1st with a fee of P15,000. Meet on the 30th pen. The Pahabol Plus-handed event is supported by Gerson Manufacturing Feeds, a concentrated feed from Indonesia—makers of Thoroughbred Power Roast, Gain 800, 617 or 800-5645. Meanwhile, co-sponsorship for the May 18th Meet via Publicity & Media Relations Officer Ruel Tolentino, Manager Nilo Flores at Phone # 0917-2273, 332-1018, 332-8128 or 0920-9630833.

Meralco shuttlers in electrifying win

MERALCO stamped its class over Masangya, 9-0, this Monday to head the opening day winners in the classic division of the 2008 Sportsfreaks Cashless Corporate and Celebrity Cup Invitational Badminton tournament at the Club 600 in Quezon City.

Cynthia Gaviola, Tim Vivas, Angie Ecoll, Geodyn Ichikawa, Ben Ramos, Alric Dela Rosario Selga and Sharon Salvio lifted Meralco to the win scored by Rabby's Quezon Global, Philippine Bay, Sin Sportsmith and Sportsfreaks Incorporated.

Men results:

Doubles: FG Ed Obedo-Dalisay 2-0, Jun Miguel Cruz-Ryan A. del Prado 2-0, Christian A. Panganiban 2-0, and Jaspring Cruz-Rodolfo D. Reyes Sports 2-0.

Ladies: Ella S. Gonzalez-Ma. Cristina M. Ng 2-0, Liz Ann Miguel Gonzalez-Cecilia Sports 2-0, Mercedes Salazar-Gomez 2-0, Philippine Bay's Joanne Gomez 2-0.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1

WHAT'S INSIDE

Gov't plans 1% hike in duties

BUSINESS

E-mail: [illegible]
Website: [illegible]
Editor: Raul D. Pangalangan
Assistant Editor: Corrie S. Nicholas

2 boards of directors elected at EPCIB

By Doris C. Dumlao and Dustin L. Lucas

OPPOSING shareholders of Equitable PCI Bank yesterday elected two boards of directors, setting off what could be the biggest crisis in the bank's troubled history.

Shareholders led by stockmarket operator Lucio Tan and the Ramolino family yesterday walked out of a heated EPCIB stockholders' meeting after their attempt to oust incumbent chair Antonio To was foiled.

The group consisting of the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System, the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig) and the Ramolino family's Trans Middle East Philippine Equities Inc. (TMEE) then proceeded to elect Rosario Bautista-Arcinue and the Ramolino family's Dante

Uytengsus place Alaska shares in another firm

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SCM BOND holdings, a majority shareholder of the Uytengsu-led Alaska Milk Corp., is poised to make it the leading milk brand by selling 34 percent of its shares in Alaska to US-based Anderson Investments LLC.

SCM Bond and Anderson are both owned and controlled by the Uytengsu family, Alaska's corporate secretary Santiago Pulido told the Philippine Stock Exchange.

SCM Bond, an Uytengsu investment company, sold 383.4 million of its common shares in Alaska at P5.11 per share or for a total of P944 million.

Before the sale of shares to Anderson, SCM held 473.4 million shares in Alaska, representing a 53-percent stake in the milk brand.

Anderson, on the other hand, is a company organized in Delaware, USA.

Alaska yesterday closed at P5.25 apiece.

Pulido did not say why the Uytengsu family transferred the bulk of its holdings in Alaska.

Alaska earlier reported that its net income shrank 46 percent in the first quarter to P65 million from the P1.04 billion posted in the same period last year.

The milk brand said it was hit by low consumption spending and surging milk prices.

Revenues in the first quarter also dipped 13 percent to P1.17 billion from P1.81 billion in the same period last year.

The company said weak sales resulting from sluggish consumer demand for milk products pared down its revenues.

The first edition found cost of sales and operating costs fell 6 percent to P1.04 billion from P1.13 billion last year.

Offer prospect have the company this year, with the expected surge in demand milk powder prices, which rose in an all-time high of $2,400 per metric ton last year.

Alaska sources 100 percent of its milk requirements abroad.

Alaska president Wilfred Steven Uytengsu Jr. had said that, as much as possible, Alaska would not resort to another nominal price increase in because of weak consumer spending.

He also expected net earnings to drop this year by more than 25 percent from P497 million last year.

Despite the bleak picture, Uytengsu said Alaska continues to eye a P1.89 billion pile of cash, a portion of which the firm will use to pay shareholders.

To date, its market share for condensed milk grew to 46 percent, evaporated milk to 41 percent, and powdered milk to 26.5 percent.

Alaska earlier inked an agreement with several producer dairy farms to distribute its products in the Philippines.

DISCLOSURES

Fil-J Prime Holdings Corp. elected as directors Benjamin Benabon, Jonathan Benabon, Johnson Co, Homer Galang, Jr., Francisco Galang, Jr., Robert Galang, Manuel Bo, Francis Chua, Johnson Tan Kai Yee, Fortino Tiangco and Roland Ynzon. It also reappointed as external auditor Punongbayan & Araullo.

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange announced that Peter Favila resigned as chair and independent director of the board of directors, as chair of the DISCP board of directors, as chair of the PSE listing committee, and as independent director of the Manila Electric Board. He was appointed secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry.

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp.'s majority shareholder, SCM Bond Holdings Inc., sold 868,450,256 of its common shares to Anderson Investments LLC.

* * *

BENNY TRITARSO SR. announced the resignation of Alturo Lopez as corporate treasurer and director. He will also retire as Exp Corporate vice president of the corporate division. Completed by Cyril C. Dominguez, PSE Disclosure

CURRENCIES

July 19, 2005 Currency	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
Australian Dollar	Dollar	0.626324	1.596500	45.4700
Canadian Dollar	Dollar	0.629147	1.589400	45.6700
China Yuan Renminbi	Yuan	0.096551	10.356000	6.9900
Danish Krone	Krone	0.146031	6.847000	10.5600
European Euro	Euro	1.208200	0.827700	87.3600
Hong Kong Dollar	Dollar	0.096552	10.356000	6.9900
Indian Rupee	Rupee	0.020000	50.000000	1.4500
Japanese Yen	Yen	0.009106	109.810000	0.6600
Malaysian Ringgit	Ringgit	0.237000	4.219000	17.1400
New Zealand Dollar	Dollar	0.582000	1.718000	42.0900
Norwegian Krone	Krone	0.147000	6.803000	10.6300
Pakistan Rupee	Rupee	0.016000	62.500000	1.1600
Saudi Arabian Riyal	Riyal	0.266667	3.750000	19.3300
Singapore Dollar	Dollar	0.594000	1.683000	42.9600
South African Rand	Rand	0.158000	6.329000	11.4200
South Korean Won	Won	0.000966	1035.000000	0.0700
Sri Lanka Rupee	Rupee	0.009524	105.000000	0.6900
Swedish Krona	Krona	0.127000	7.874000	9.1900
Swiss Franc	Franc	0.771000	1.297000	55.7600
Taiwan Dollar	Dollar	0.030303	33.000000	2.1900
Thailand Baht	Baht	0.024390	41.000000	1.7700
United Arab Emirates Dirham	Dirham	0.272294	3.673000	19.7000
United Kingdom Pound	Pound	1.756000	0.569500	127.0000
Vietnam Dong	Dong	0.000063	15875.000000	0.0046

San Francisco showdown

THE ARO-CBN and SWA salvage war have spilled overseas, with the two leading airworks simultaneously staging their pre-negotiated shows for the Pil-Am community in the Bay Area this Saturday.

GMA Box about 40 stars and executives to San Francisco last week, while ABS-CBN dispatched an apparently larger delegation.

Because of the limited seating at receptions, the humanist class section of Philippines Airlines has been fully booked three year few days, even frequent flier businessman Roberto Carmen could not get a seat on the San Francisco flight.

If you believe the pro-ARO-CBN grapevine, the Lopez network has already stolen the thunder from the competition with its televised Sunday at the Intercontinental Bora Bora Clubhouse in Pasadena, with no less than Vice Ganzon among the main guests.

But never does the saying go home, the ABS-CBN and GMA roadshows are providing entertainment mind for Filipinoisms, who have grown sick of the daily barrage of news politics from their land of birth.

Even ARO-CBN boss Mr. Eugenio Lopez III apparently underestimated the overseas break, as he would not get homaged daily from all quarters about the content and direction of his network's political coverage.

According to the grapevine, Lopez plans to fly back to Manila next week, after the Presidency shall have already delivered her State of the Nation to relatives to left of the tuition address.

Jesus is in Europe

APTIN declaring himself honest three part few weeks, Sen. Eddie Villanueva is leaving this weekend on a European tour, apparently reserved to the expansion plans of his dynamic local congregation.

According to one of his advisers, Bro. Eddie will visit for 1st reasons his Presidente Aeropuerto Jesus, and his flock is seeking guidance from the preacher were that his and the underground Lord's "Image All" strategy are going nowhere.

Merry-go-round

• AEPO Prominence, the disenfranchised Arab detribesmen dealer, has hired to counsel a classmate of Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Dayrit Hermosisimo Cortes, to prevent her multi-engaged client from pocketing P 10 million in fees from the P2.1 billion damage suit that Asia Pertinacious filed against the tourism and resorts companies.

• THE ARCHITECTURAL firm of Jaramillo Uy Lucas Partners said the national retail did not design the aesthetically challenged head office building of Bank of the Philippine Islands, contrary to what was reported here on July 19.

• IBS newspapers may have collapsed from debt and its men have avoided himself of a "consumption" loan from a thrift bank in the recent past, but Tonee stepwindow Enrique "Boom" Lorenzo assures by the Masonic code that the P1525-million Jaguar X saloon he acquired after being named a Malacañang economic in the negotiated Philcomsat strong made a Mike Arroyo cousin. And hours "paid for with my own money."

• ADZ-spreading of Senator ones, Pedro-ranga (Jinx) cayman Senator on "Unsolvable Lenny Cox" makes very interesting reading.

Heard through the grapevine

JOLO-bobed fun from quietly put on the block, with owner "Bebot" Enriquez planning to ramp/re-homing and move retained proceeds.

(E-mail: mabuhay_pat@yhhhl.net or mabuhay_pth@yahoo.com)

Stocks fall . . .

From page B1

Leading the market's losers were Ayala Land, which rose 1.3 percent to P7.75, and International Container Terminal, up 1.5 percent to P7.80.

All sectoral indices remained, except the oil subindex, which advanced. Decliners led gainers 61 to 51, while 39 stocks were unchanged.

"The market was trying to go up early on the session due to the buying momentum in previous sessions. But somewhere along the way, it stalled, and the market lost its motivation, prompting investors to take profit," said Meralco Securities chief Emanuel Macapagal. AP

Gov't planning to raise import duties by 1%

Think You know everything there is to know about Your Customers?

NOT After You Attend This...

...You Won't!

Learn to create and connect to maximize profits...

HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL, MAKATI CITY
AUG. 18 & 19, 2005

Register early and get a shopping 21% discount!

THE 2nd DMA PHILIPPINES
2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION
THE PHILIPPINES LARGEST EVENT FOR DIRECT & INTERACTIVE MARKETERS

Direct Marketing Association Philippines

AUGUST 18 & 19, 2005
HOTLINE: (632) 896-0639

By Michelle V. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT plans to implement a 1-percent across-the-board hike in import duties to compensate for the revenues lost due to the suspension of the expanded value-added tax law.

The move is seen to generate P164.6 billion in incremental revenue yearly which, the Government of Finance said, would help offset the losses arising from the suspension of the VAT law implementation.

The government has been losing P3B/month since a day due to the VAT suspension since January 1, the DOF said earlier.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima disclosed the Cabinet has approved the plan to push through round the VAT law suspension would be lifted by the Supreme Court.

It is but proper for the government to implement a compensatory measure since it should have been collecting additional revenues in the next few days, the DOF said.

He said the planned one-percent increase in import duties would cover products that were not exempted from duties.

Purisima officials announced the plans yesterday during a meeting with newly appointed Finance Secretary Margarito Teves

Japan firm seen raising capacity of mining venture

By Ramon W. Domingo

SUMITOMO Metal Mining Co. Ltd. of Japan plans to double the capacity of its nickel processing plant in Surigao but reports that the local government is causing limits on mining activities, despite this, according to a trade and industry official.

Trade Undersecretary Glenn C. Hernandez yesterday said SMM had planned for expansion due to the initial success of the Pulanduan venture that started full operation last April.

SMM is operating through Coral Bay Nickel Corp., a joint venture between the Japanese firm and Inco (INCO) facility in Batarasa town. The

former part of a $380-million investment project in the Rio Tuba nickel mining area.

"Sumitomo wants to double its investments in the country but the company is concerned that whether it could secure stable supply of nickel ore," he said. "The present facility is good only for the existing ore reserve."

Coral Bay is processing nickel from a long-standing low-grade ore dump at Rio Tuba site.

According to SMM, some 15-million tons of laterite—a kind of nickel oxide—is needed per year to the existing plant site with enough supply as present. The material for its project in the next 30 years.

Hernandez said he met last week with Sumitomo officials during a gathering of representatives of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development.

"They told me that Francis Pangilinan was limiting the clearance for mineral extraction and that they are concerned that would compromise the sustainability of ore supply over the years," he said.

Napocor moves to prevent power shortfall in Cebu

NATIONAL Power Corp. has delivered 2 million liters of bunker oil to the Naga Plant Complex in Cebu to prevent a shortfall in power supply in the Cebu-Negros-Panay (CNP) grid.

The first 500,000 liters of fuel was delivered last Monday enabling Naga facility operator Unified Leyte Power to start-up its 55-megawatt (MW) Cebu Thermal Power Plant 1 (CTPP-1) and the 55-MW CTPP-2.

Another 1.5 million liters was brought in the Naga facility yesterday with a delivery of another three million liters scheduled for today.

In a statement, Napocor said the second bunker fuel shipment would allow Salcon to resume operating all thermal and diesel units in the power generation facility.

The third shipment would give the entire power plant complex enough fuel up to the end of the month.

A fourth shipment of 6 million liters of bunker oil, enough to run the thermal and diesel facilities in the Naga complex up to next month, will be delivered this weekend.

With these fuel shipments, Napocor said power supply in the CNP grid should be restored.

The CTPP-2 tripped last Saturday due to a slight delay in the arrival of its fuel supply. Two days after the CTPP-2 shutdown, the CTPP-1 also ceased operating.

The delay was caused by the lack of available barges to make the delivery but resolved.

Napocor had in use trucks to deliver the fuel to the Naga power complex, which took a bit longer than if barges were used for the deliveries.

—Abigail L. Bo

Splash puts up health goods unit

PERSONAL care products manufacturer Splash Corp. has put up a subsidiary to tap into the growing market for "nutraceuticals."

Unified Splash Pharmaceutical Corp., the subsidiary was seen providing Splash with a foothold in the North American and European markets for natural food products.

"Splash Pharmaceutical is also envisioned to fill the niche of the nutraceutical industry from its infancy stage to a modern, science-based business," said Rolando Soriatico, chair and CEO of the Splash Group in a statement.

Nutraceuticals are defined as natural food components claiming to boost health and reduce the risk of chronic diseases.

Soriatico said establishing the pharmaceutical company was part of Splash's vision to become a total wellness company and to develop the local market for nutraceuticals.

A recent survey conducted by Pearl and Dean Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (PSRI-DOST) showed that among the Manila respondents, a considerable 62.5 percent were not aware of the benefits of nutraceutical products.

According to PSRI-DOST, the level of awareness and extent of usage of nutraceutical products was relatively low despite the availability of these products in many drug and health food stores in Metro Manila.

Splash said one reason was that the nutraceutical industry was still caught up in the traditional image of its predecessor—the medicinal herbal medicine.

"By leveraging on the strength of the Splash Group and the Splash Research Institute, Splash Pharmaceutical is keen on proving that nutraceutical applications should be backed up by science and research to ensure efficacy and safety of the products," said Stefanus Soriano, chief operating officer of Splash Pharmaceutical.

Nutraceuticals is an $80-billion global and growing industry and is widely popular in the US, Canada, Japan and Europe.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE

FIRST METRO SAVE AND LEARN — Registration of Securities
FIXED-INCOME FUND, INC.

Registrant

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on June 22, 2005, a sworn registration statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by and on behalf of FIRST METRO SAVE AND LEARN FIXED-INCOME FUND, INC. for the registration of its entire authorized capital stock of Two Hundred Million (200,000,000) common shares with the par value of P1.00 each, or an aggregate value of Two Hundred Million Pesos (P200,000,000.00).

According to the papers/documents presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the corporation:

NAME	POSITION
Victor C. Macalincag	Chairman
Atty. Antonio M. Bernardo	Director
Rev. Manuel P. de Leon, SMD	Director
Emma C. Esmeralda	Director
Edwin B. Valencia	Director
Nanito G. Galvante	Chief Financial Officer
Atty. Natalia B. Fuentes	Corporate Secretary

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party in such reasonable fee as the Commission may prescribe.

JOVENAL C. CALLANGAN
Director

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF THE

FIRST METRO SAVE AND LEARN — Registration of Securities
EQUITY FUND, INC.

Registrant

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on June 22, 2005 a sworn registration statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by and on behalf of FIRST METRO SAVE AND LEARN EQUITY FUND, INC. for the registration of its authorized capital stock of One Hundred Million (100,000,000) common shares with the par value of P1.00 each, or an aggregate value of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00).

According to the papers/documents presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the corporation:

NAME	POSITION
Victor C. Macalincag	Chairman
Atty. Antonio M. Bernardo	Director
Rev. Manuel P. de Leon, SMD	Director
Emma C. Esmeralda	Director
Edwin B. Valencia	Director
Nanito G. Galvante	Chief Financial Officer
Atty. Natalia B. Fuentes	Corporate Secretary

Said registration statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party in such reasonable fee as the Commission may prescribe.

JOVENAL C. CALLANGAN
Director

PSBank
PSBank Center, 777 Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeño St., Makati City

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of June 27, 2005

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items	P	710,119,533.65
Due from Bangko Sentral		1,997,202,271.80
Due from Other Banks		3,799,532,224.70
Trading Account Securities (Net)		812,236,117.76
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		14,023,465,636.28
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		27,689,295,651.77
Equity Investments (Net)		25,000,000.00
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)		1,766,126,484.58
Other Assets (Net)		
Property Owned/Acquired		2,197,152,983.66
Others		1,018,151,143.71
TOTAL ASSETS	P	53,817,560,852.36

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	P	3,946,770,289.35
Savings Deposits		11,889,555,381.44
Time Deposits		31,333,945,996.57
Due to Bangko Sentral		7,502,886.36
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		263,174,391.76
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		39,584,780.64
Other Liabilities		1,619,751,982.95
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	49,834,570,848.10

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	P	1,795,015,000.00
Surplus		2,088,162,370.87
Surplus Reserves		100,101,133.40
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	3,982,978,504.26
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	53,817,560,852.36

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Bills for Collection	P	314,841.09
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		588,075,700.83
Invested in		
Government Securities		30,000,000.00
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock		70,888,664.17
Other Assets		463,227,141.86
Acceptances/Letters of Credit/Trust Receipts Issued		103,595,153.40
Trust & Other Fiduciary Investment/Fund Management		432,486,592.43
Other Contingent Accounts		33,913,710.00
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	1,722,501,803.78

Additional Information:
1. Deposits of
a) Government
b) Banks
c) Others
d) Total Non-Performing Loans
e) Unearned Loan Loss Reserve
f) Specific Loan Loss Reserve
g) Total (2(d)+(e)+(f)) Loans Adversely Classified
h) Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio
i) Ratio of Net (2(d)-(e)-(f)) Loans Adversely Classified to Total Loan Portfolio
j) Ratio of Past Due (2(d)(b)) to Total Loan Portfolio
k) Reserve on Equity
2. Compliance with Regular Loans Used for RMEs
a) Percentage of loan compliance with the mandated credit allocation requirement of 6% for Small Enterprises
b) Percentage of loan compliance with the mandated credit allocation requirement of 9% for Medium Enterprises

Board of Directors
Jose T. Pardo, Chairman
Arthur V. Ty, Vice Chairman
Dominga F. Chua, Vice Chairman
Margaret T. Chan
Benito L. Chan
Pascual N. Garcia III
Jose Maximo Laurel, III
Alberto A. Pedroso
Regis V. Puno
Angelito M. Villanueva

Principal Officers
Pascual N. Garcia III, President
Rolando A. Rodriguez, Executive Vice President
Jaime V. L. Ayalde, Senior Vice President

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Makati City) S.S.

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on this 19 July 2005 at City of Makati, personally appeared before me this Commission, Tax Certificates No. 12643782 issued at San Fernando, Pampanga on 11 January 2005 and No. 12699455 issued at Quezon City on 11 February 2005;

Doc. No. 477
Book No. 98
Page No. 13/95/1
Series of 2005

Until 31 December 2005
PTR No. 0998852 Mka. 1-05-05
IBP OR No. 0849452 Mka. 1-05-05
City of Makati

WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY 2007
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE
C1

Editor Chelo Batol-Fortunato
Chief of Correspondents: Pum Pastor

More dreamtime with Neil Gaiman

The 'Sandman' creator chats with the INQUIRER about blogging, movies, writing, and what a long, strange trip it has been

Contributor
By Ruel S. De Vera

IT'S THE NIGHT leading up to Neil Gaiman's stay in the Philippines. Just a Philippines's-flavor's-throw-away from his hotel, anti-government protesters had gathered. He once decided into the peninsula Manila under the name of Mr. Punch, a character from one of his own books. That Gaiman is now living a (rather ad-ventureous and surreal life) not unlike that of one of his fictional people is to be expected. Strolling the streets of Manila, tales of the Sweating, and his dysfunctional family, the Endless in "The Sandman," 70 issue run, Eastman has endured a world's imaginings and books his creative wanderlust take him where it may, to novels, children's books and other creative endeavors.

Do you have an upcoming project with Marvel/Comics?

(Smiles wider and shakes his head vigorously) No.

"Coraline" was followed by "The Wolves in the Wall." Now, you're coming out with "Fortune Boys..."

Well, "Fortune Boys" is an adult novel—well, sort of. Actually "Fortune Boys" is an odd word, "American Gods," which was the Hugo and the Nebula and the Bram Stoker and the SFE, the Locus and on so and so forth, a definitely not a book for kids. There is fucking sex and extreme sex, and all sorts of nod stuff. "Fortune Boys" is the most adult novel, but it has no extreme sex, no sex, no swearing, there's absolutely nothing in there that I wouldn't mind a 13 year old reading.

On the other hand, "The Graveyard Book," which is the most children's book, begins at least in the current draft, with four pages of a serial killer walking around a house in the dark, having killed all of the family and looking for the baby to finish them all off. It's the scariest, nastiest thing I've ever written. These days, I don't make a lot of separation between the adult stuff and the kid's stuff as I should.

Along those lines, you've done quite a bit of film work, such the English script for Hayao Miyazaki's "Princess Mononoke," the script for "Good Omens," and now "Mirrorblack." Following your gustatory metaphor, is cinema another kind of meal that you really enjoy?

Absolutely. The fun for me of cinema is that it's a completely different kind of adventure and there's also the huge kind of teamwork involved.

The strange thing about cinema and TV is this. When you read a novel by me, it's a book by me. That's what you get. When you read a comic by me, it's a comic by me and an artist. When you're looking at film, you're looking at something I thought up, as interpreted by a director, as told to me by 80 people and the limitations of budget. It's a combo of a different thing.

On the other hand, I have the coach of film. I love how many people see them. I love, right now, the weird technical parallel. Icon of film and time "special effect" no longer mean what they did. And that is really interesting. The things that Dave McKean experimented on in "MirrorMask" will wind up proving useful somewhere down the line.

You've always been interested in different kinds of mythology and different ways of thinking, is there anything now that you're currently fascinated by or enjoying? What books are you reading?

Right now, I'm sort of just loading the hopper. Right now this year finding out about it. The joy of being an author for me is that the place where you get ideas or background material is never other people's books; it's always weird little books about suddenly things. I just finished reading a book on the history on the newspaper of the Tower of London, going back to the 18th century. I've been reading a book about the legends of the 30 Inn tribes of Israel, and that's really interesting, how virtually every ethnic group in the world has been identified as part of the lost tribes of Israel.

That's why you've become both an icon of reading and writing to the world. How does that feel?

If I ever thought about it, it would be a bit alarming. It's like the blog [you can find along with other fascinating resources on his website, http://www.neilgaiman.com]. I've been keeping the blog since January 2001, which is about as far back as people have been blogging. There were maximum blogging when I started. Your blog, for a responsible today? Overall, there's probably a million words' worth of stuff in the blog, and you could probably extract a small book of advice for writers from that stuff I've written in answer specific questions.

But I never set out to keep the blog as a source of advice for writers. It's just that lots of people seem to know things like, how do you file and how do you deal with writer's block and whatever. And this is how I do it, this is what I think it is.

Is it still as much fun for you, or has it gotten more difficult as time has gone on, now that your work is so wide and there's a huge audience for your craft?

I think it's just different. I'm not sure that harder is right, and I'm not sure that easier is right. It gets harder to arrange time because all of the outside pressures come like a bowling ball on a rubber sheet. When you're a young writer, you say yes to everything and then there's a point when you turn around and... you have to start saying no, which is very hard for a freelance writer to learn.

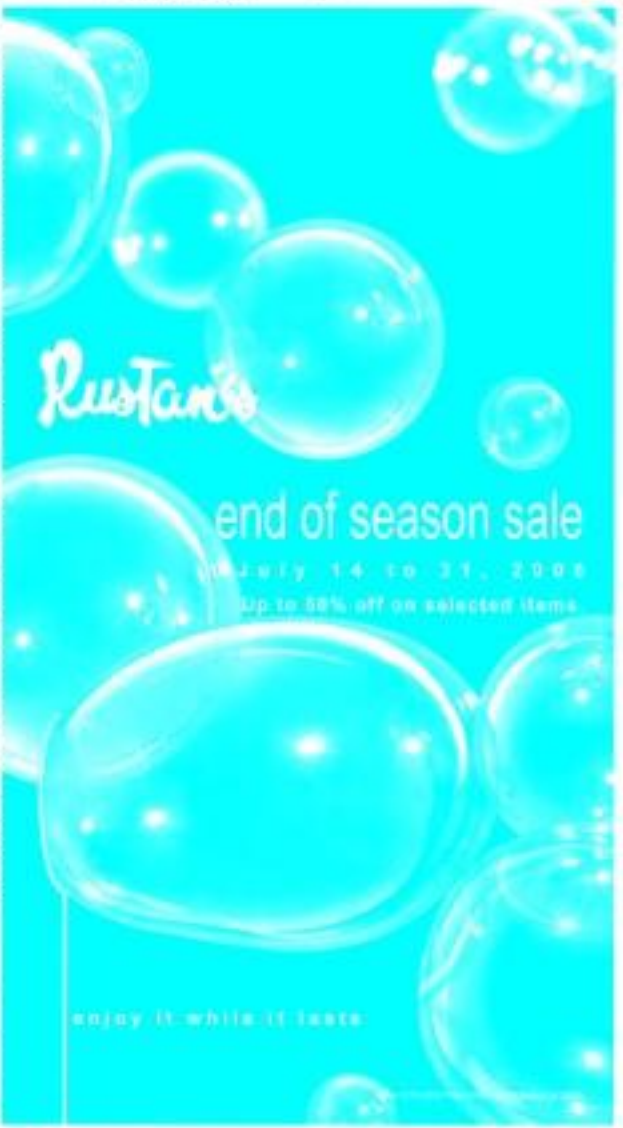
I still enjoy writing. The most fun I've had the last years was going to Glasgow and hosting their workshop "The Wolves In The Walls" as children's opera by the National Theatre of Scotland. And it was absolutely funny and wonderful. The second most fun was writing "Fortune Boys," and that just the joy sense of me and my pen going off every day and writing. I think that includes the terrible days, of "Christ, I'm an idiot, what makes me think I could be a writer," and the days where I didn't even bother picking up my pen because I'm completely struck in a zone and had no idea what was going to happen next.

I was three quarters of the way through "Fortune Boys" when I called up my agent and said, "I have to tell you, the book is crap. I think I'm going to go and stop writing now. We're just going to have to tell Harpers that we're never going to finish the book." And she says, "Oh, as you've at that point in the book." And I say, "What do you mean?" And she answers, "You always get there at my writers do." Three-quarters of the way. She's been you feel about it, and then suddenly it all pulls itself together.

I'm so happy with the book, it's so funny and so light. I like the

(CONTINUED) C2

GAIMAN greatly enjoyed with and signed for his fans on his first trip to the Philippines.



Beauty is in the eyes

HERE, they take up even less than a third of your face, but your eyes definitely say a lot about your beauty habits.

Those saw are more than just the windows to your soul; they also are the world's glimpse of your life by reflecting stress, fatigue, and aging in ways the rest of your face can't. These tiny lines, discoloration and eye bags should clue you in on how your eye area requires plenty of care and pampering—and on how you should pick only the best products to touch this delicate area.

Red rabbits

Our skin also and bad beauty habits unleash havoc on our eye area in many ways: dark circles, eye bags, fine lines, crow's feet. The good news is, we need not wait until we're in our 30s to start using products specifically targeted to these eye concerns.

Don't get intimidated by the many "anti-aging" concoctions available on the counters. Most of...ese than not, they still do not work skin good. Besides, the eye area does age faster than the rest of our faces.

Fine lines, eye bags

If you're a little less Kinder-ovum' skin and have been rubbing and tugging at your eyes faster than you remember and tell you to stop, chances are, you have more crosses up there than you'd like to have.

Clinique Daily Eye Benefit Gel is those lines and helps smoothen the appearance of early aging signs. Apply a small amount using your ring finger and simply pat on until fully absorbed. Never rub on eye products!

For bags that sag and weigh down your entire look, try Origins A Perfect World for Eyes, a light serum that "soothe out" your skin with the help of antioxidant white tea, firming and toning the area.

Dark circles, puffiness

Dark circles under the eyes can make anyone look tired and fatigued....definitely an enemy. Many think that get lack of sleep can create such a condition, as more and more research say that this discoloration could be the accumulation of toxins and broken capillaries under the eyes.

In this case, a potent Vitamin K product is required to "clean" this discoloration, restore original skin quality, and result in a brighter eye area. I found one in Creme E, an eye cream exclusively sold in dermatologists' offices and through Jeunesse Manila (e-mail jeunesse.manila@yahoo.com or call 6888882 for orders). Its touted to be the savior of many stars. Creme has both Vitamin K and retinol that work in tandem to boost cell regeneration.

Puffiness caused by water retention (or a night fighting with your boss) is easily remedied with Elemé Hydralenda Eye, a cooling gel cream that caps the puff in an instant. Dip it in the fridge before application for a panic wake-up pair!

Make-up users

Use a pro-makeup eye gel for a smoother base and to protect the eye area from physical damage. I like MAC Pur Response Eye Cream, a quick-absorbing moisturizer that helps concealer and eye color go on smoother, and helps prevent crinkling in the middle of the day.

And just as you should care for your eyes before putting on makeup, you should make sure you give it the TLC it deserves when taking it off. Use a final glance (a water oil mixture) reducing remover like Shiseido The Skincare Instant Eye and Lip Makeup Remover, which takes off eye makeup down to the last smudge of mascara.

Eye love

Concealing those imperfections in the meantime is a breeze with my all-time favorite Shu Uemura Eye Correcting Pen Concealer. It has turned into a must-have of phenomenal proportions (I cried when I lost mine!) probably because, with it, you can never go wrong.

Every kind of undercover discoloration is no match for the four precision nubs that cover up the problem no matter what your skin tone. My undereye favourite crème go-to camouflage with the orange shade, and it stays that way even through a night of sweating it out on the dance floor.

Makeup phobes who want to look "made up" anyway can make do with eyeliner and mascara. I would use dark brown for a subtle day look and switch to a black one for evening. I love Bobbi Brown Creamy Eyeliner for the colors with a sponge-tipped end for easy smudging.

Do tweezers, ECs are Rhonda The Makeup Beyond Combing Mascara by lash babies that look really natural for day and either Clinique Lash Power Mascara or Maybelline XXL Mascara for a big night out with the gals.

Email and Maybelline are located at FCI and other health and beauty stores; Shiseido at Rustan's and SM; Beauty Mall at ECRO, Ayala Avenue, Makati; Bobbi Brown, Shu Uemura, Clinique, Origins and MAC at Rustan's Time and Estee Lauder, Clarins & Jean Coutu at Rustan's Makati; Clarins & Jean Coutu at Rustan's Makati; e-mail jeunesse.manila@yahoo.com or call 6888882 for orders.

E-mail the author at love.gabaldon@yahoo.com or lgabaldon@philtelco.net.

More dreamtime

but that people read the book and it makes them happier and makes them feel better, and that's what it was supposed to do.

"I'STILL enjoy writing. This most fun! I've had the fun! year was going to Glasgow and hearing their anthology "The Mirror to The Walls" as a children's opera..."

You've ventured into all kinds of genres, but is there something specific you still really want to do?

I'd like to write a stage play. I've never ventured an original stage play. I've had stage plays adapted from things I've written and I've musicals there and I've liked them, or I haven't. I would love to do something for the stage, to see what happens.

Does it surprise you that you're popular, say, in this country, or when you see the reactions you get when you "Irrawaddy"

No. The thing is, I have a story like a "kind of" homeowner. There's the normal kind of it, reactions that people have, which means people have heard of my own if they don't like my stuff or don't listen to me. Every-one in the world knows that literary figures is famous. So pretty says that's the girl who sang "Utopia, I Did It Again." But apart from that, I can't identify a literary figure's song at gunpoint...and, honestly, give me a marlyngton and five up 39 average-looking Mind American girls and tell me to shoot Britney Spears and I can hit anybody.

But I have a sort of literary fame because books exist in other "Well-Cultured-I-haven't-heard-of-China-what-does-he-do." or "Well-German, oh-my-God-he's-my-favorite-author." There's not so useful for between them. What was becoming very apparent to me, because I get to go backstage at my website and I get to see where people are coming from...I realized that Singapore, with a population of four million people was coming in at number five or number six, and the Philippines was coming in at number eight or nine, out of the world. That was the point when I said I have to go to the Philippines, I have to go to Singapore, I have to go and sign in these places because I know there are people there reading this stuff and I've never been there and I want to find out what they like.

I went this morning to judge the art show and it wasn't choosing between apples and oranges but like apples and chocolates and mirrors. Ha, I go down there, it's 9:30 a.m. and there are 350 people there, and they catch sight of me. One moment, I have 100 people shouting hello and I say hi, and then it just sort of erupts into a deafening, top of the throat I begin to produce his resurrection of a crowd shouting ahhhhhhhh. It didn't feel like The Beatles. It felt much, much colder than that. I thought, "This is the Philippines, they are loud, they are vocal and they are really enthusiastic. This is going to be wild in fact."

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

SISTERS Tanya (left) and Alex Cruz of the Ortigas Route tell the judges about their many shopping adventures together.

BEAUT mom's JM Arnaldo and Rica Lopez explain the ideas behind their purchases.

RED mom's Karen Sierra demonstrates the many uses of her P-50 beads.

READY, get set, shop!

Showdown of the shopaholics

Five teams, P2,000 each, countless stores in Eastwood City—which Filipino shoppers will get to represent the country in the Hong Kong Shopper of the Year 2005 International Competition?

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Pam Pastor and Rudel Reyes

SHOPPING is a skill.

And if you're not convinced, the five finalists of JBAY, Metroplaza Inc. and Hong Kong Tourism Board's search for the Philippine representative to this year's Shopper of the Year contest in Hong Kong will surely sway your opinion.

For weeks, we asked readers to send in essays and photos proving that they are really experts in the shopping arena.

They did not disappoint.

Entries streamed in from all over the Philippines with people telling us about their shopping antics, quick eyes, great taste, tireless feet, the ability to haggle in different languages—the list is endless.

All the aspirants were impressive, but five stood out: Karen T. Esmeralma-Angeles, Sampaloc, Maria Cristina S. Gonzaga from Las Piñas City, Benjamin Arboleda from Makati City, Catherine Avendaño from Pasig City and Aiza Cruz from Pateros-Taguig City.

Great finds

They, along with their chosen partners, met face to face one Friday in a final shopping showdown, to find out who gets to fly to Hong Kong to battle it out with other super shoppers from all over the world.

The venue was Eastwood City, a shopping haven with no great finds for good shoppers.

The five teams first met at Gweilos, a rocking nightspot and home of the best-looking pub and bar crew, for the briefing and the contest mechanics.

Each team was given P2,000 shopping money and an hour and a half to purchase items falling under three categories—fashion and beauty, jewelry and accessories, and home accessories.

Soon, the pairs of contestants were running around Eastwood City with their Hong Kong Live it Love it bags in tow, searching for the best finds.

When the time was up, the contestants faced a panel of three judges—Peregrine Ita, executive vice president Noel Neiva, Eastwood City's marketing officer Cristelle Antonio and this writer. They presented their purchases and fielded questions about Hong

(CONTINUED ON PAGE C2)

JB ARTIFICIO and Rica Lopez check out the accessories at Bench.

BEA Arcenas (left) and Calyssa Jimenez buy a belt from Greenhills.

ECKANKAR presents
The Secret Teachings REVEALED
Practical approaches to live your life entirely and joyfully
Friday, July 22 and 29, 2005
6 - 8 pm
Powerbooks Greenhills
Malaon Avenue, Makati City
Facilitated by Maggie dela Rosa & Chris Peabody
FREE ADMISSION
For more information, please contact

Fast cash
for any need
or any occasion,
anytime,
anywhere.

CASH2GO
The BEAT Instalment Plan

Get quick cash when you want it, where you want it!

- Get access to instant funds with the BEAT instalment plan!
- Easy and affordable installments for painless payments at 3, 6, 9, and 12 months
- For any accident or indulgence that needs immediate cash!
- Only 1.25% a month

To avail, visit any of the Metrobank branches nationwide and fill up the BEAT Application Form and get your cash/check within an hour. Call 8-780-708 for more details.

Kitchen klutz

Text and Photos by Cheryl Tio
24/7 Correspondent

Ask anyone and he or she would tell you I'd make the worst housewife. When I was living in Budapest, I once cooked hotdogs—with the plastic cover on. Back home in Manila, while my 11-year-old sister Christine reigned in the kitchen queen, concocting various pastries and desserts, I would often waltz into the kitchen, convinced that my culinary contribution would be to taste-test the finished product.

Bottom line: I do not know how to bake or cook.

One recent afternoon, Ivan Farlan and I set out for BreadTalk Kalookan to eat for 24/7 assignments. While Ivan would be tasting the franchise, I would be doing production—as a hired topping. I came in the furnished black pants and put on the BreadTalk chef's uniform, a haircut (something I hadn't seen since Home Economics class in fifth grade) and a tall chef's hat.

FINALLY, something easy—Cheese dipping chocolate mousse into a pond of chocolate sauce

Essential tool

My new gown, a coat of the kitchen by the production head, Jocelyn Bitara, who explained that this was an essential tool in making bread way the stains. Since the ingredients were carefully calculated to produce a particular number of bread, the lack of any one ingredient means an attempt to missing the target amount, resulting in spoilage from quality control says, therefore, observed in BreadTalk.

I was then handed over to do BreadTalk's best-seller, Hoagie. After slapping my hands into a set of plastic gloves, I was given a long serrated knife to slice the bread in the middle—not completely through, I was told, but not to open it up enough to put more for the egg cream filling.

Head topper Bianca "Gylan" Mallo demonstrated how I should operate the cream and then grabbed another unsuspecting bun and let me have a go at it.

It was actually pretty fun, though I'd have to admit I was working in Andre's pace while Dylan assured me was not used for first timers. Still, I felt the pressure when Ivan would come in and interrupt me needed more bread, and I was still awkwardly squeezing the toppings.

My Double Trouble, I had to slice the bread in the middle again for the decorative French cocktail stems. With our in-mobile baking experiences, my process of the piping bag was marked with so much ineptitude, he asked was supposed to look like pawns using melted up cheese like a clumsy amateur. Anupe told me only three of my Double Troubles made the cut. Boo.

The Chocolate Overcoat, however, compensated for the losses. I only had to dip the croissant into the chocolate pool, lay it out on the tray and then sprinkle almonds on top.

I also found the Ensaymada and Cream interesting. Sit and try pastry layered roll for bake or equivalent stacks of bread, but that is the way Ivan that those two bake could not meet. The ensaymada cut hole was for the strawberry filling and the other hole was for the whipped cream, and the two fillings shouldn't mix inside the bread.

First time

I was surprised then by my friends Bryan, Eve and Ramon, who couldn't resist staring into the bakery's audition and totally performing kitchen drama. Since I was watching, the most I could do was to dench my teeth at them in a taken grend from behind the glass while they acted out the stopped Mankind gestures of me. It was then my time to see me had it worked for head chef.

Other patrons we did meet the Abe Chic Abe Chic is the Baptism Ondoy celebrity bread maniac to

THE AUTHORS Ivan and Cher with the friendly fun-theming BreadTalk staff

The few hours I spent at BreadTalk made me realize that I should begin spending more time in the kitchen

the Floss, but stopped like a bumbling, adorned with "frozen-to-crystals" in the form of floss), the Blueberry and Strawberry Rockies (bread-baked milkmaids into half topped with blueberry and strawberry fillings), the Tuna Cheese Pretzel (bread-molded buns molded inside the center and fill), Pop Goes! (squished flatter filling inside).

By 8:30 p.m., I was already exhausted. My stomach had enough to get a table at BreadTalk, and of course the scrumptious delicacies while waiting for me. I noticed that they had bought that particular flavors & Creams. I had made, and they had picked it right in the center of the bunch.

"My didn't touch the bananas or were waiting for you," they told me, them bear sweet, I thought—until they said, "So we could compare it to those of you and we'll produce much is sucked" and they laughed.

We decided it into four, and when they was bread broke process to their mouths, surprise erupted from faces. "Wow, this is really good!"

Instead of feeling smug, I was more skeptical. "Really?"

"No, this is really good," they said. I felt a much crisp up to my knee. While I really did want to eat the hardworking staff of BreadTalk, I felt a little proud since I had, of course, done the extremely difficult job of squirting the fillings into the bread. Hehe.

I used to live by the philosophy that the key to my heart was through my stomach. The key doesn't open it BreadTalk made me realize there is a lot of bad guys who use type of food proposal, especially those headed with me on a silver platter. It's about time I spend more time in the kitchen.

Email the author at chtio@mandela.ateneo.edu

CHEF, and Sara proudly display their Garlic Pizza creations.

PIPING the Ham filling into the Mr. Pogi twist

Talking breads and buns

Text by Sabrina Dee Rufon
24/7 Correspondent
Photos by Cheryl Tio

Baking is one of my many passions. I love baking so much that I enjoy bringing my baked goodies to school. I'd share it with everyone and go home with an empty container and a big smile on my face.

So to BreadTalk employees for a day offered the same satisfaction, but for a much bigger audience. Well, that, Cheryl (Cher) Tio and I donned on white chef's coats and hats, we stepped down to BreadTalk Kalookan and made sure we survived the BreadTalk challenge.

Preordiner

I was nonexpectedly help into the front of the house while Cher took over of the back. Breadtalk cashier Monica Siking was happy to teach me the ins and outs of front management. the BreadTalk way.

I helped make sure the trays were filled and the towels kept coming. I didn't notice it before, but cashiers who filled the trays actually had a quiet before they brought out their pastries. "Excuse me. Ate tray? (name of bread)" This was done to inform the customers of the fresh breads coming out of the kitchen.

Whatever. Cher was cooping (not refusal to do). I would call out the name of her product. Some customers were already reading the three BreadTalk terms when I called them out. Monica said sometimes the customers themselves picked the breads out of their trees.

I was also taught that there was a science to the appearance and arrangement of the breads so the whole atmosphere of the bread—with stores encouraged the top shelf, while the sweet treats were placed in the bottom. Breads of the same shape and color were not placed together. You also had to follow the 5-3-1 formula when pairing the breads on the tray. Three in the back, two to the mid, and one in front again up front.

I was also taught how to clean the trays and the storage. Trays were cleaned using sterilized towels, done twice. The storage were cleaned under running water and also using sterilized towels.

Whatever else taught me how to BreadTalk's products, I learned the Customer have a wide variety of tries to choose from. BreadTalk sure reopen with customers by encouraging Customers can also ask to have their requests refilled. Whatever they want, they can get it once their tray had a sweet and many taste to it. Sadly, we got too busy to remember our sweet, final's bun.

Top this

I got extreme satisfying. Cher prepare the breads from the top-piping station. Soon, the call of the kitchen got too loud to ignore. I requested that I get to experience topping as well.

Anupe Bianca and Dylan Mallo large Cher busy by filling and topping the breads. They were also glad to have me "assist" with their products.

TALKING a translator outside BreadTalk after using it's work

The job

The Good

You get to work with a fun and hardworking staff.

You get to experience how to make yummy treats.

The Bad

Standing and walking around all day can be draining to the back.

Extreme fatigue like pantyraider headache.

Paying the stores on the Double Trouble was a lot hard but very exciting. Moving my hand to make sweet circles of custard cream was such a treat. Though piping was an art that I still can't handle doing it was such an accomplishment.

Well, watching the Liberty's Network previous to the helped a lot. I was finally able to do what Nigella Lawson and Kate Gosselyn knows how. Being a bake-wannabe, that was such a treat.

Making the Hoagies and Cream was also fun. I didn't know that you actually had to put the cream under the crust of the breads before piping the cream and strawberries unless them. It took a little practice, and it was only when I was piping in the Ham filling (dated Tuesday) I was into the 8th. Well I told that it became easy.

For our last Breadtalk product, Anupe and Dylan asked Cher and I to make filled puff pastries. I did the Chicken Cream Puff, and Cher the Ham Cheese Puffs. It was a lot tricky since the puff pastry dough was a bit soft, and managing it was a bit tough. Luckily, we were able to pull it off.

The puff pastry had two layers and our backs were already starting to hurt. Shifting around the store and making sure things were in place was really tiring. I still remember how our feet were in the puffy pastry dough. Thank God, I brought sandals with me. Cher's feet were too swollen in a lot of minutes.

The job

The Good

You get to work with a fun and hardworking staff.

You get to experience how to make yummy treats.

The Bad

Standing and walking around all day can be draining to the back.

Extreme fatigue like pantyraider headache.

Walk in the carpark

By Brian Keith Sanders
24/7 Correspondent

EASTWOOD City in Libis is one of the most storied "happening" places in the metropolis. On a normal weekend, an estimated 5,000 cars park in all three major parking areas, namely, City Walk 1, Home Center and Cyberpod 1 car parks. The number could even reach up to 8,000 when an event is being held.

Those picking spots are rumored by 20 parking attendants. Last Sunday, my job was to be Parking Attendant No. 21 for the City Walk 2 parking area.

At first, I was really wondering what an attendant really did. The only thing that came to my mind was that they only give out parking tickets and collect the payment at the end of the customer's visit.

When I finally got to Eastwood City I was surprised to see so many attendants standing just behind a parking area. It was a huge area! Imelda standing just against the scorching heat of the sun. I imagined there would be at least a booth and a chair like the ones on those cyberstores.

I was just the verge of backing out about 20 minutes into the first morning with the parking attendants. But I thought of this as a challenge to my favorite show, "The Apprentice." I cannot a possible embarrassment into one of the tasks that should. It may might give me 24 hours on the show. I realized that no job was fun, and I had to do my best to impress anyone.

Well, my boss wasn't exactly like The Donald. I met with Bernie Dan, director for Gateway Operations, and Rhode Mendoza, marketing manager. I was to report where they told me I would be staying in a booth. They had Lieutenant Galeno, parking attendant (me), accompany me on every lunch/merienda.

NEAT chat. Pun is. The author wipes in, wipes out.

Not easy

They then assigned me to the common booth of the City Walk 2 area to give out parking cards and hint magazines to customers. Inside, is another parking attendant, helped me scan the cards and punch in the plate numbers into the system. It wasn't that easy. I had to open the info first, even before the cars had approached the booth. My contact hours were growing a bit sticky and I wanted typing 40 words per minute or less. I decided to defer to Polly, and just gave out the cards with a smile.

The second rush was so easy as

the first booth. This time, I collected the fees from the drivers. I was educated to invite them to the early-order sale of Rosemoor last July 15-17. Although this was a bit unfair (Jane being at the restaurant booth), it was probably the most essential part of the day for me. I had to kiss out to the cars, but accepting cards for the booth wasn't any help since it was a lot heavier inside.

During the briefing, Sir Bernie told me that part of my "administrative" work is to handle some of the customer's complaints. I might have given him a worried look, because he assured me it would be okay if I didn't want to do it. Well, I don't even want to start on that. I figured it would be a fun way to end my day, and end here.

The job

The good

It was fun to see my hard-earned P pesos in the form of my cash envelope.

I met a lot of new friends.

The bad

It was frustrating to see people in the cars always in the passenger's seat while they browse magazines/books.

PARKING pal

But I learned when they said I had to wear a red car attendant's uniform. It came in blue and yellow, which was not really a good combination. Honestly, I felt a little awkward walking around in it. Good thing they gave me a cap to cover part of my huge face.

One of the car owners told me that out of 100 cars in an hour, only two would most likely agree to have their car washed. I thought it was such a small number to beat. At the end of the day, my grand total was one car—an SUV—washed by the mobile car washers.

Tiring day

It was certainly a long and tiring day for me. Even though I worked for only four hours, I was surprised to see that real parking attendants didn't get bored with their jobs. They weren't even allowed to listen to music, or make their own mixed breads.

Nevertheless, I have to say that I enjoyed my one-day adventure. There were certainly moments, when I wanted to quit and say, "This would be enough for the day-date." But would it have been good enough?

In truth, it was like opportunity to check out the interiors of my favorite cars that really kept me going. I also met a couple of celebrities with their duties. But the best part was getting paid for a fun adventure. I didn't get close to being The Apprentice, but at least I got to be The Attendant!

E-mail the author at bk_castro@yahoo.com

SUPER SHOPPERS. Winners of the Shopper of the Year Contest in Manila Mine Manahan and Cathy Avendaño (center) with judges, Perception Inc.'s Hiral Mistry, JMJC's Pam Ponce and Eastwood City's Criselda Antolano

Showdown of the shopaholics

From page C1

Kong and their passion for shopping.

Difficult

The decision was a difficult one. But Cathy Avendaño and her partner Alice Manahan emerged victorious, after blowing away the judges with their almost unbelievable shopping skills. They stretched their P15,000 to the maximum, returning with armloads of shopping bags (*See sidebar for their great finds.*)

Their victory came just a day before their anniversary—making the moment extra special for them.

Today, the two are in Hong Kong, competing with representatives from 27 other countries including Australia, Germany, Italy, US, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, China and Thailand for the Hong Kong Shopper of the Year 2005 title.

Aside from bringing their purchases home (all finalists get to do that), there are great prizes in store for those who will win the competition—including round-trip tickets from Cathay Pacific, a two-night stay in a resort hotel, hot hour view suite, a holiday in Hong Kong and a Samsung Notebook. Special prizes will be given to different shopping categories.

Incredible

Cathy, who is a self-confessed "incurable shopaholic," seems to have spent her life getting ready for this competition. "I am the ultimate shopaholic! I never let anything get in the way of my favorite pastime in the world," she wrote in her entry.

She recounted the time rain poured hard when she was at a night market in Korea. "I didn't even have an umbrella but I didn't let it disrupt my shopping. I continued going from one stall to the other, not noticing that I was dripping wet. I was even more saturated about my purchases, asking all the stall attendants to wrap them well so they won't get wet."

Even surgery couldn't stop Cathy from doing what she loves the most. "I recently had gum surgery but it was Manny's super sale already. So with a bandage covering my chin...I rushed to the sale, regardless of the curious stares I was getting."

The two are determined to do their best, even devoting time to research before leaving Manila. Mine said, "We're young, we're hot, we can run around Hong Kong."

Last year's winners were from Taiwan. This year, Beatrice Cathy and Alice's zeal for shopping, the winners might just be from the Philippines. We're keeping our fingers crossed.

E-mail the author at ypaner@inquirer.com.ph

The loot

From page C4

Red Tears
The Seven Baryon Seekers

Karen Torres and John Bryan found great multi-purpose items that could fit under both the fashion and home categories. Even more impressive was Karen's skillful demonstrations of the many uses of their fashion finds.

INDIAN silk
from Eastwood Bazar (P300/each)

BAGS
from Eastwood Bazar (P150)

YOUR GUIDE TO A BALANCED LIFE

WORKINGMOM

FREE Parenting Workshop

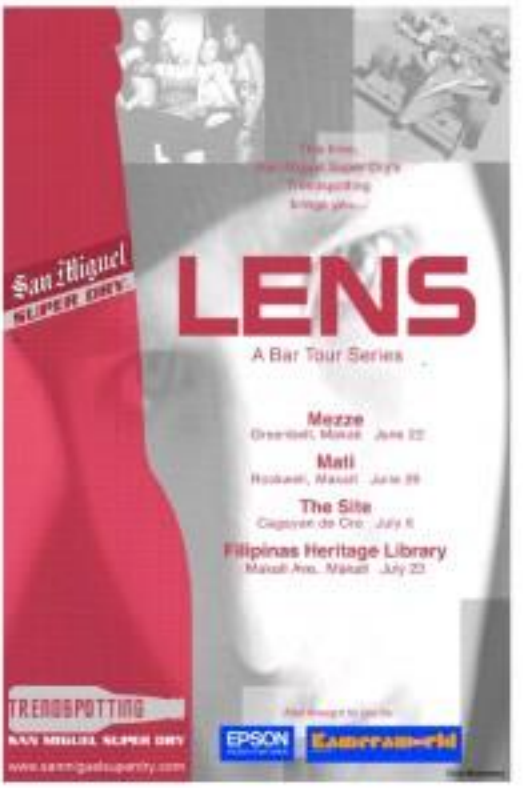
"Adapting Your Parenting Skills to Your Child's Personality" by Mr. Romulo Romero

July 23, 2005
9am-12noon
13th floor Training Halls A&B ELJCC,
Eugenio Lopez Ave., Diliman Quezon City

COME AND GET A CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES FROM RESIDENCE INN TAGAYTAY, ZOOBIC SAFARI and MERALCO

GET LOADS OF FREEBIES
from UHP United Home, Growee, Caelin, Naprex, Tiki Tiki Star, Nutroplex, Cetriset, Enervon, Kraftek, and Teensworld.

Simply register to confirm your participation.
Call Cathy Bautista at 4152272 loc. 4640.
No Registration or Entrance Fees.



White Team: The Speedy Shoppers

Celyne Cenance and Bea Arcega are serious about their shopping. They zipped in and out of stores, heading straight for their items of choice. With a ten-and-four-to-finish, purchasing in three items after only 30 minutes into the game.

KNACK knockoff from Greenhills, P400

LEFT: Clutch from Bayo, P495; above: Leather notebook from Fleu, P1,...00

Blue Team: The Thinkers

JR Ambrocio and Rico Lopez take shopping seriously, carefully thinking about and discussing their finds before actually purchasing them. (Like end of the game, they still had half their budget left.

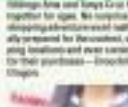
SIM card holder from Resort, P90

Sunscreen, P289.75; (below) picture frames from Greenhills, P250

BACKPACK from Bench, P395.75

Green Team: The Great Planners

Siblings Erik and Sonya Cruz have been shopping together for ages. So suspicion that their shopping adventure will rudely end. The two diligently prepared for the weekend, scouting the shopping locations and even coming up with a theme for their purchases—Smoothing Spot, Hidden Dragon.



JACKET from Details, P747.50

NECKLACE with "Long Life" pendant from The Bead Shop, P425; (top) picture frames from Greenhills, P488

The loot

Here's a look inside the five teams' shopping bags

Pink Team: The Winners

Filipina bloggers Irene Yee Cabby Arrastia and Rica Mendoza, who are in Hong Kong today battling it out with other super shoppers from all over the world, armed to the teeth with their shopping skills. Their style was through—destroying all the corners of town around City for great finds and shrinking their P2,000 budget considerably. They returned with bags and bags of unique purchases (and P1 left). Now that's power-shopping for you!

NECKLACE from Haute Stuff, Style Conerate, P195

EARRINGS from Haute Stuff, P95

SHOPPING tools: Calculator, P89; and pen, P6, from Mac'n'Boulevard

WOODEN picture frame, P71.25

HANGER, DIY Shop, P50

EYESHADOW from Everyone Knows, P120

WATER bottle from Watsons's, P56.75

CATHY and Nica show off their finds. Flip flops from I Love Style Concrete, P200; guy's shirt (which doubles as a jacket) from Mexico, P500